FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-064
Wednesday
5 April 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi: Bush's Statements 'Positive Stand'

JN0504100489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 5 Apr (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stressed that U.S. President George Bush's statements on ending the Israeli occupation constitute a good and positive stand. He said that the most important thing is to translate these words into deeds, that the change in the U.S. and European stands is only a verbal change that needs to be supported by practical and material elements, and that these words should be coupled with actual action to recognize the Palestinian right to an independent state.

In statements published by the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH today, Qaddumi pointed out that the most important elements of the required U.S. change is to officially recognize the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to self-determintion, and to admit that the international conference, and not direct negotiations, is the only way to peace.

The head of the PLO Political Department ruled out the possibility of holding the international conference this year, because it will be the year of an agreement to stop arms race between the United States and the USSR. This, he said, will not allow first priority to the Middle East. However, he added that a meeting for the five big powers would be held at the end of this year to reach an agreement on the nature of the international conference.

In conclusion, Qaddumi expected that the Palestinian state will practically be established within 3 years, stressing that the intifadah [uprising] has created a true impasse for Israel that has placed it in a state of countdown toward an overall collapse, and that this is a sign of the victory of the intifidah.

Fatah, DFLP Agree To Work 'Jointly'

JN0504064989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2110 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, 4 Apr (WAKH)—The leaderships of the Fatah Movement and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have agreed to pursue the Palestinian peace efforts that are based on the Palestinian political initiative to score further victories for the Palestinian people, repulse the occupation, establish the independent Palestinian state, and garner further support for the Palestinian people's rights.

In a joint statement issued following meetings held between them in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, the two sides also agreed on the importance of confronting future political developments jointly to bolster Palestinian unity within the framework of the PLO and its bodies.

The statement, disseminated by WAFA tonight, emphasizes the importance of pursuing efforts to convene the five-sided meeting of the Arab countries that are concerned with the international peace conference. It also emphasizes the importance of following up action to bolster Arab solidarity and hold the Arab summit to support the Palestinian peace initiative, champion the Palestinian people's cause, and mobilize Arab efforts to expedite the convocation of the international conference.

The statement also stresses the importance of mobilizing all Palestinian, Arab, and international efforts to escalate the intifadah [uprising] and confront all forms of Zionist repression and terrorism.

Al-Hasan Says Syria, PLO To Meet 'Soon'

JN0504114989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has affirmed that an Algerian delegation is currently in Damascus to prepare for a reconciliation between Damascus and the PLO. In a seminar in Kuwait yesterday evening on the Palestinian cause, Hani al-Hasan explained that a Syrian-Palestinian meeting will be held soon. He, however, did not reveal any further details. Hani al-Hasan said the PLO is ready to initiate a dialogue and open a new page with Syria.

'Arafat Says PLO Detaining 3 'Terrorists'

NC0404181889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has described the U.S. Administration's efforts as serious and voiced satisfaction over the progress made during the exchange of views between the United States and the PLO.

'Arafat declared that the PLO had detained three terrorists, including one Palestinian, who belong to three groups that planned to carry out terrorist operations in Europe as well as in some Arab countries. He pointed out that one of these groups had arrived in Athens, while the other groups had entered other European states. He stressed that one of the three groups was planning to assassinate Palestinian officials.

Jibril on PLO Policy, Pan Am Crash

JN0404180889 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1618 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Dear Brothers: The AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI weekly magazine published in Cyprus carried a detailed interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]. Mr Jibril affirmed the front's adherence to, and defense of, the national constants.

Within the course of his answers to the questions, the PFLP-GC secretary general said that the Palestine question is not real estate that 'Arafat, his deviationist course, or any Arab ruler can sell.

On Palestinian national unity, Mr Jibril clarified that 'Arafat is the one who slammed it against the wall by going against the Palestine National Charter and the resolutions of the legitimate Palestine National Councils, starting with his attempts to disengage Arab isolation from the Camp [David] regime in Egypt, moving on to his attempts to generalize the Camp situation to become an Arab situation, and ending with his attempts to abort the intifadah [uprising] revolution in Palestine.

Mr Ahmad Jibril pointed out that 'Arafat is not able to contain the intifadah and its true guiding currents. He affirmed that the nationalists in the Palestinian arena believe that the battle will conclude to their benefit and the benefit of the Palestinian cause and people through the accumulated victories and escalating armed struggle in Palestine.

Following, we broadcast the full text of the interview carried by AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI magazine with PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril.

Question: How do you view the features of Palestinian reality, especially after the series of alarming Arab and Palestinian retreats in favor of the Zionist entity? And what are its effects on Palestinian national unity, which has witnessed a series of setbacks since evacuating Beirut in September 1982 after the Zionist invasion and which actually turned the PLO into two organizations? How can this unity be retrieved and what are the bases and conditions that should be provided to turn it into a reality?

The PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril answered: The Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982 was a dangerous turning point in the history of the Arab-Palestinian struggle. Before the siege was over, it became clear to us that we differed. It became obvious to us that there were two currents. The first current believes that the role of armed struggle had ended and that we have to deal with the new political facts, especially since this stage is one of reaping political gains after the long years of our people's and nation's struggle. This current was represented by 'Arafat's course and allies. This current left Beirut packing its suitcases in the direction of the political option.

On the other hand, the other current—a revolutionary current—rejected the realities of capitulation that the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism, with the cooperation of some Arab regimes, were attempting to impose on our nation. This current rejected the results of the invasion in 1982. It said: Yes, we admit that we lost the battle. However, we have not lost the war. We have to re-organize our ranks to continue the struggle. We must reject the results of this invasion, which was programed by some Arab regimes and the imperialists and executed by the Zionists. After 1982, after we evacuated Lebanon, and in February 1983, when we met in Algiers in the Palestine National Council [PNC], we tried to dissuade the morally broken current and persuade it to return to the will of fighting. However, the issues were crystal clear. Those of the defeated current were also crystal clear in their political proposal.

On these grounds, the Palestinian arena was partitioned into two politically different courses, despite the attempts of many Palestinian and Arab mediations to regather the ranks into the Palestinian arena.

However, all these efforts were not fruitful because of the stubborness of the capitulationist current and its insistence on its political option. We, as a political line that calls foı continuing the struggle with the Zionist enemy, were and still are adhering to the Palestinian National Charter on whose grounds the PLO was founded.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril added: We were and still are adhering to the resolutions of the legitimate Palestine National Councils that gained the majority. The other party, however, is the one that went off on a tangent from the PLO's charter and resolutions. We knew that a series of concessions would be offered by 'Arafat's current and course on the bargaining table. We knew that these concessions will not stop and that they will, therefore, lead not only to splitting the unity of the PLO, but also to dangerous damage in the future of the Arab and Palestinian struggle.

The concessions offered by 'Arafat that we see today are only natural. 'Arafat repeatedly declared that he is committed to, nay, insists on, the option of peace, which we term capitulation. Therefore, we see him today hitting and tearing the PLO charter and resonantly recognizing the right of the Zionist entity to more than two-thirds of Palestine. He recognized the right of the Zionist entity to live and exist in our Arab region. He also gave in further by indicating his willingness to establish a confederacy between him, the Zionist entity, Jordan, and Lebanon. He went even further by demanding the establishment of a joint economic market between the countries of the region and the Zionist entity under a U.S. umbrella through a new Marshall plan in the Middle East.

The differences that are currently raging between 'Arafat and terrorist Shamir center on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which represent only 29 percent of Palestine's land, although the Zionist enemy has set up 250 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and confiscated 60 percent of the land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This means that the bargaining centers on 25 percent of Palestine's lands—a percentage that represents an area of 2,000-3,000 square kilometers, while the area of Palestine is estimated to be 27,000 square kilometers.

The concessions that 'Arafat is making are extremely serious. He wants a Palestinian entity, through which the enemy government can pass into the Arab nation. In his recent statements, 'Arafat wanted to tell the Americans and the Zionists that he was ready to carry the Zionists on his back to Amman, Baghdad, Damascus, Riyadh, and Tripoli. When he proposes a joint market with the Zionist entity he means the exportation of Zionist technology to all of the Arab countries. Therefore, when 'Arafat condemns all types of terrorism and violence, he means, as he has told the Americans and the Zionists, that he has totally abandoned the rifle and pledged not to use arms or harsh words against the Zionists. Several days ago, terrorist Shamir insulted and abused him. 'Arafat answered: May God forgive Shamir. Can he cover the sun with his finger?

We in the PFLP-GC, as well as other movements in the Palestinian arena inside and outside Palestine, lay in wait for 'Arafat's program. Even some of 'Arafat's allies in the PLO have recently begun to feel the size and seriousness of the concessions 'Arafat and his methods are making. But Zionist intransigence, which we feel from time to time, is only an intelligence and psychological game intended to deceive the Palestinian and Arab citizens. It is also aimed at extracting more concessions from 'Arafat.

In his statements and moves, 'Arafat has transgressed the international conference, which he used to call for as a ceiling and a way for finding a settlement. Now 'Arafat and Salah Khalaf are clearly voicing their readiness to hold a direct dialogue with the Zionist enemy and make a unilateral deal. Even some countries and organizations, which are calling for the convening of an international conference, believe that 'Arafat has violated their agreements with him. Therefore, we see no possibility of meeting with 'Arafat following his serious deviations.

Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC said: We in the Front say that the issue of Palestine and the land of Palestine are not real estate that 'Arafat or any other Arab ruler can sell. Palestine's land is the land of the Arabs and Muslims. The Arabs and the Muslims fought the Crusader invasions for 150 years around the 10th century until those invasions were repulsed.

Some international circles describe our problem with the Zionist enemy as hotbeds of tension, which have recently prevailed in Afghanistan and Angola. Differences in Afghanistan, Angola, and Latin America are differences among sectors of one nature over the nature of the regime. But our problem in the Middle East is a historical and cultural conflict between the Arab and Islamic nations on one hand and the Zionists in Palestine on the other. I do not believe that even the superpowers can achieve a magic solution to the conflict between us and the Zionist enemy.

Although there is no evidence to indict the PFLP-GC on the crash over Britain of the U.S. plane, some bizarre voices are still trying to pin this crime on some factions of the Palestinian revolution, specifically the PFLP-GC. Do you have any new information on this issue?

Answering this question, Ahmad Jibril, PFLP-GC secretary general said: Since the early hours of the Pan Am incident, Zionist and American propaganda organs began determining the responsible party, even before making technical inspections or holding investigations. We ask: Had they penetrated our security and known that we would carry out the operation and, consequently, held us responsible? If this was the case, they should have prevented the incident and saved the lives of hundreds of innocent people. Many statements were made on this. We expressed readiness to cooperate to remove the mystery surrounding this incident.

In one of my statements, I said that the incident was not uglier or more painful than the destruction of the civilian Iranian Airbus in the Gulf. Nor is it uglier or more painful than the downing of the civilian Libyan plane in Sinai. The Pan Am incident is also not dirtier than the daily killing of hundreds of children and women on the land of Palestine or in southern Lebanon. Even if we consider the incident to be the result of a terrorist act, we still wonder whether state-organized terrorism, represented in the downing of the Iranian and Libyan planes and the killing of hundreds of children, is not a thousand times fiercer than the terrorism practiced by groups and individuals?

Anyway, we know very well that the attempt to pin the Pan Am crash on us has great implications. These can be summed up as being a stupid attempt to blackmail Damascus and the [Libyan] Jamahiriyah. It is a ridiculous attempt to stir our allies in Damascus and Tripoli against us. The U.S. Administration wants to ask Damascus and Tripoli: Why do you shelter terrorists? We know very well that our faction is targeted by the Zionist entity and U.S. imperialism. We, indeed, are placed at the top of their priorities because they know well that we constitute a strong obstacle in front of their political programs in this region.

What is sad and regrettable is that Yasir 'Arafat and the directors of his offices in Tunis and the FRG began providing the CIA, and even the Mosad, with full information about our faction. Recently, they provided the Americans with baseless reports on our front's intentions. 'Arafat and his clique believe that, through the provision of this information, they will be closer to the United States, or that this information will be a bridge for them to pass to the heart of the Americans. Congratulations to Yasir 'Arafat on his new-old membership in the CIA. He shamelessly removed the mask from his face.

AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI asked: Following the PNC resolutions during its recent session in Algiers and the series of concessions during and after the session, observers see that there is a pledge to confront this policy. What is your view of this policy and what are the national Palestinian plans to abort it?

Ahmad Jibril answered: First, we admit in advance that 'Arafat's policy is not easy to abort. It needs a host of interrelated daily militant accumulations. 'Arafat's policy is a reactionary Arab banner. Most of the Arab regimes support 'Arafat. In fact, 'Arafat is a curtain behind which the defeatist rulers hide. 'Arafat is doing these rulers a great favor. Some voices, therefore, are raised every now and then asking why you have not managed to defeat 'Arafat's policy. 'Arafat does not represent a Palestinian capitulationst policy, but an entire Arab capitulationist policy. Have you forgotten the Fes summit of 1982, which drafted a plan for political moves including an implicit recognition of the Zionist entity and abandonment of any military option?

Jibril continues: As for us, we address this large capitulatory current to pose the following question: What are the results that they have attained because of their pursuit of this line? This line has been pursued since 1973, since after the October war. This line has been pursued for more than 16 years. Throughout this period, the capitulatory regimes have been panting after political settlements. We would like to pose this question to them: Have you restored one inch of Palestine despite all the concessions that have been made? Hence, we tell those who hurry things up and wonder about our inability to defeat the line being pursued by 'Arafat that we know well that the battle between us and this line will finish with points in our favor through the accumulation of the victories that we will score in contrast to the disappointments, the humiliation, and the servility that will be the lot of the camp of capitulation.

Question: The opening of the U.S. dialogue file with the PLO leadership coincides with another dialogue and other contacts of another type that are being conducted inside the occupied territories between some Palestinian figures and leaders of various currents of the racist Zionist entity with PLO blessing according to the statements made by Yasir 'Arafat. What are the repercussions of this on the intifadah and the future of the Palestinian struggle?

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril says: 'Arafat and his line have been persistent for a long time in normalizing relations between our people and the Zionist movement on Palestinian soil. For more than 9 years, 'Arafat has been overtly and covertly working to tame the Palestinian and Arab minds to make them accept a dialogue with the Zionists. Hence, the attempts currently being made by some agents inside or outside Palestine through the talks being held between them and the Zionist entity are no more than an attempt at self-deception, as our Palestinian people inside or outside Palestine categorically reject and condemn these meetings, with the exception of the forced meetings held inside Palestine because of threats issued by the enemy.

We are in touch with our people in Palestine. Our people reject the normalization and domestication attempts being made inside or outside Palestine. Besides, the figures that are effecting moves inside Palestine do not enjoy any popularity or support inside or outside Palestine. Their personal history is replete with hundreds of question marks.

As for 'Arafat's attempts to bring about a rapprochement with the United States, it has become clear that 'Arafat's rapprochement with the United States and the Zionist enemy is achievable when fully clear conditions are met. The first of these conditions is to stop armed struggle inside Palestine and from Lebanon, Jordan, the Golan, and the Sinai targeting Palestine. Nay, 'Arafat has to prove his credibility and ability to stop all types of armed struggle. Therefore, we find that the U.S. Administration and Zionism are annoyed by some actions that are being implemented inside the [occupied] territories, such as the killing of some settlers or soldiers or the implementation of some operations carried out from southern Lebanon.

Jibril adds: The Americans said: If 'Arafat cannot stop these operations, his credibility will be undermined. Nay, 'Arafat's allies within the PLO have frankly announced that they are not committed to the pledges made by 'Arafat to the United States and the Zionist entity. As for the second condition, it is the stopping of the intifadah in Palestine. Our information, as well as reports coming from Palestine, show that 'Arafat and his policy line are attempting through various means to destroy the intifadah. If he cannot achieve this objective, he will seek to encircle and contain it in accordance with a timetable.

'Arafat has not concealed his objectives on the termination of the intifadah, as he announced that he is ready to stop the intifadah on the day the Zionists agree to meet him. Moreover, our people in Palestine are well aware of this. Besides, they also know that 'Arafat is exerting financial pressures on them to make them kneel before the Zionists. Our people are also aware that only a small fraction of the funds collected for the intifadah are transferred to places inside Palestine and that this fraction is transferred to the suspect hirelings and figures inside the occupied territories. However, our people's slogans inside Palestine and everywhere there say: "Starvation is preferable to kneeling"; and "We will continue using stones." Hence, we believe that 'Arafat is asked to clearly deliver on the aforementioned conditions if he were to be acceptable in a dialogue with the United States and the Zionist entity. As well, Shamir has recently asked 'Arafat to dissolve the PLO.

Answering a question put by AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI magazine which says: The continuation of the intifadah revolution in the Arab territories of 1967 and its expantangible and irrefutable evidence on the possibility of total and comprehensive liberation and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. How do you evaluate the past 16 months of the intifadah and what are the horizons of the future before it, taking into consideration the continuing attempts since its beginning to contain, abort, and exploit it for the benefit of some bargaining Palestinian, Arab, or international sides? What would you like to tell our steadfast and struggling people in the occupied territories?

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril answered: Those who started the intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are the residents of the camps who were thrown out of their homes and territories occupied by the Zionist enemy forces in 1948. It was clear that this intifadah was conceived in the wombs of these camps of Jabalyah, Al-Maghazi, Al-Jalazun, Qalandyah, and Balatah. The intifadah started in these camps, declaring its rejection of the settlement programs proposed during the past years.

I say with all honesty: Yasir 'Arafat and his allies were the last to know of this intifadah. They were just as surprised as the Zionists and the West. After the passage of 25 days, the villages and cities of the West Bank and Gaza Strip revolted. Our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip later joined the intifadah movement, which started in the camps, supporting it and committing themselves to it. Then, the intifadah moved from the residents of the villages and cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Palestinians living in the territories occupied in 1948. In other words, less than one month went by of the intifadah before the Palestinian people present on Palestine's territory realized their unity from Nazareth and Akko up to Rafah, Nabulus, Jerusalem, and Hebron. This means that any solution offered to the Palestinian people that cannot absorb this reality over the unity and future of this people will be a distorted and fragile solution no matter how many factors for success go into producing it.

The camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip did not revolt to stay in their camps or to improve their health or education situation. They rebelled because they felt a traiterous deal had started to emerge. Their intifadah was a reaction to this deal, a reaction to the conspiracy. Now, there are heroic martyrs falling. The number of heroic detainees from these people in 1948-occupied Galilee is increasing, as well as the sons of the camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the sons of heroic Nabulus and Hebron or 1967-occupied Ramallah.

There is no doubt that the PLO leadership wanted, from the first month, to exploit this intifadah for its political aims. It chose a fictitious leadership for this intifadah, which parades and struts before the eyes of the Zionist Mosad and Shin Bet without any punishment. Imagine that Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Hanna Sinyorah, and Sari Nusaybah are members of the intifadah leadership and the Zionists allow them to move around and carouse as they please.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril added: We know very well that the Zionists and their intelligence organs are helping 'Arafat on the ground to contain the intifadah. They support him in various ways. In return for this, they imprison, detain, deport, and kill the real leadership of the intifadah. Hence, we say that 'Arafat is incapable of containing the real currents guiding the intifadah on a daily basis.

There are also important Islamic and national currents in Palestine that 'Arafat cannot contain. These currents and revolutionary leaderships will be an obstacle before the conspiracy over the intifadah.

In this field, we are proud of our people's struggles on Palestinian territory. We know that they are facing torture and pain and paying an expensive price daily. This torture and the victims will only increase our people's solidity and confirmation of victory.

We say: Our people on the outside will not abandon this intifadah. We, and the Islamic national forces in southern Lebanon, inflict great daily losses on the enemy, thus attempting to decrease the pressure on our people in Palestine.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril concluded his interview with AL-MAWQIF AL-'ARABI magazine by saying: The steadfastness of our people in Palestine taught us important lessons. We know very well, and our people in Palestine also know, that the price of freedom is expensive. Our people are paying this price.

The attempts at deception and cheating, which the enemies or capitulationist Arabs and Palestinians are practising, have been revealed to our people. The day will soon come when all those who deviated or forfeited will be punished. Then, the U.S. or Zionist enemy's protection will be useless.

In conclusion, we say: It seems that 'Arafat and others have not learned anything from the lessons of history. It would have been better for him to learn that the United States and its huge organs were not able to protect Sadat. In fact, a simple citizen of our Muslim people in Egypt, Khalid al-Islambuli, stood up to tell Sadat: Go to hell. I am sure that the people closest to these deviationist leaderships will implement the punishment on them.

Al-Sus Cited on Mitterrand-'Arafat Meeting

*JN0204094389 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
30 Mar 89 p 23*

[Excerpts] Paris, AL-QABAS—In an exclusive statement to AL-QABAS, Ibrahim al-Sus, head of the Palestinian legation in France, has affirmed that Yasir 'Arafat will ask President Mitterrand, during his forthcoming meeting with him, for full French recognition of the State of Palestine. He added that Yasir 'Arafat will also request that France effect tangible moves to support the intifadah [uprising] being staged in the face of the Israeli repressive practices and that it also work in the European and international arenas to secure the launching of peace negotiations at the earliest possible opportunity. [passage omitted]

Ibrahim al-Sus asserted to AL-QABAS yesterday that Yasir 'Arafat will voice a number of specific demands during his forthcoming meeting with Mitterrand and that the following will be the most prominent of these demands:

1. 'Arafat will ask the French president for full French recognition of the State of Palestine.

2. 'Arafat will ask France to increase its backing and support for the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied Arab territories. Besides this, 'Arafat will also ask that France effect new tangible moves to support the Palestinian people who are confronting the increasing Israeli repressive and brutal practices.

3. 'Arafat will request that France effect moves in the European and international arenas to expedite the initiation of peace negotiations and the convening of an international peace conference. Another result of these moves would be intensified pressures on the Israeli Government to make it accept a peaceful solution to the conflict and a settlement of the Palestine question in a manner that would secure the Palestinian people's rights.

Al-Sus affirmed to AL-QABAS that a date for the Mitterrand-'Arafat meeting has not been fixed so far despite all that has been published on this. He added that an agreement on the final date for that meeting will be reached in French-Palestinian contacts that will be held during the coming time. Al-Sus told AL-QABAS that the PLO leadership wants to see this meeting held at the earliest possible opportunity, but added that the Palestinian leadership understands President Mitterrand's circumstances as well as his assessment as regards the fixing of a date for this meeting.

Al-Sus went on to say that the Mitterrand-'Arafat meeting would serve French and Palestinian interests at the same time. He said that this meeting clearly reflects France's desire to play a major role in realizing peace in the Middle East and also in not leaving the reins of the initiative in the hands of U.S. and Soviet officials.

'Arafat Arrives in Djibouti on Visit 4 Apr

JN0404214589 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1820 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] At the official invitation of Djibouti President Hassan Gouled, brother leader President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this morning arrived in Asmara from Tunis on a visit of several days to Djibouti. The brother leader president was welcomed at the airport by Djibouti President Hassan Gouled, senior Djibouti officials, heads of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions, and

Brother leader President Abu 'Ammar reviewed the guard of honor. Then, the Palestinian and Djibouti national anthems were played while brother leader President Abu 'Ammar was being accorded a 21-gun salute. Brother leader President Abu 'Ammar met with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in Tunis yesterday.

During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments of the Palestine question and the situation in our occupied Palestinian territories in light of the escalation of the acts of repression, killing, slaying, and crimes being perpetrated by the Zionist occupation troops against our defenseless Palestinian people. In addition, they also discussed the current Arab and international situation.

'Arafat Meets Muslim Brotherhood Leaders in Cairo

PM0504104689 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Mar 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Meets With Muslim Brotherhood Guide"]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met the evening before last with Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr. The meeting was held in the [Islamic] Call House and attended by a number of Muslim Brotherhood leaders. The meeting dealt with the situation in the occupied territories and international developments.

Qaddumi Receives Canada's Ambassador to Tunisia

JN0204175889 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutuf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO's Political Department, the night before last received Canada's ambassador in Tunis at the department's office. The Canadian ambassador explained his country's political posture on the Palestinian cause and the PLO premised on recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood led by their principal representative, the PLO.

His country's government, said the Canadian ambassador, appreciates the recent resolutions of the Palestine National Council as well as the peace initiative launched by brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Geneva and holds that a UN-sponsored international peace conference with PLO participation along with the other parties to the dispute is the only route to building a permanent, overall peace in the Middle East.

Brother Abu al-Lutf briefed the Canadian ambassador on the latest regional political developments, particularly concerning the accelerating momentum of the intifadah [uprising] in the face of the mounting Zionist

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives Libya's 'Umar al-Muntasir

LD0404140489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The secretary of the General People's Committee in the Jamahiriyah, 'Umar al-Muntasir, was received by President of the Republic Mr Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting was attended on the Algerian side by Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah and the minister of light industries. The Libyan participants included the minister of health, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health, and the ambassador of the Jamahiriyah in Algiers.

After the meeting, Mr 'Umar al-Muntasir made the following statement to newsmen:

[Begin Al-Muntasir recording] First, I conveyed the greetings of my brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great September revolution, and the greetings of the Libyan Arab people and especially from the Basic People's Congress who, in their third session in 1988, approved the draft bills on bilateral union between Libya and Algeria and who approved the Arab Maghreb Union treaty.

We have discussed the question of following up bilateral cooperation projects. His excellency the president gave us guidance in speeding up the implementation of many of the projects so they can come into being and be felt by the Libyan Arab and Algerian citizens. [end recording]

Communique on Al-Muntasir Visit

LD0404212289 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Mr 'Umar al-Muntasir [secretary of the General People's Committee in Libya] this afternoon left Algiers. He was seen off at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by head of the government Kasdi Merbah, who was flanked by a number of the members of his government.

The visit of the secretary of the General People's Committee in the Libyan Jamahiriyah was crowned by a press communique which said:

Within the framework of the consolidation of the relations of brotherhood and cooperation between the two brotherly Algerian and Libyan Arab peoples; on the basis of the endeavors aimed at embodying their aspirations for the edification of the one common destiny; and at the invitation of brother Kasdi Merbah, head of the government in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, brother 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, paid a visit to Algeria April 1989. He headed a delegation including the secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and a number of high-ranking experts.

During his stay in Algeria brother 'Umar al-Muntasir was received by His Excellency Brother Chadli Bendjedid, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, who gave his directives about the consolidation of the horizons of joint cooperation. He was also received by the speaker of the People's National Assembly. He visited the integrated project of irrigation in the Beni Amrane Region in Boumerdes Province, where he showed his pride in this pioneering achievement which is considered the object of pride of the two brotherly peoples.

This visit enabled the assessment of the progress of the positive and varied cooperation between the two countries and stressed the two sides' endeavors to follow up the already implemented resolutions and recommendations of the sixth session of the Joint Executive Committee held in Tripoli between 28 and 30 January 1989. In this respect, the two delegations' talks dealt with the development of economic relations and the exchange of trade as well as in the cultural, educational, and information spheres. The two sides expressed their happiness at the results achieved in this respect.

They also expressed their determination to mobilize all resources to attain the aims stipulated by the Joint Executive Committee. The two sides affirmed, furthermore, the need to urge the two countries' concerned bodies to exert more efforts and contacts to totally and immediately implement the Joint Executive Committee's decisions and directives.

On this occasion we would like to reiterate the need to consecrate the tradition of the 3-month periodic meeting between the head of the Algerian Government and his brother, the secretary of the General People's Committee, in an endeavor to know the level reached by the joint bilateral cooperation and to give the necessary directives to activate it and further provide the needed means for it in a manner which will serve the higher interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Minutes of the meeting were signed during the visit. The two sides pointed out in these minutes the method and types of work in accordance with a defined program, which goes along with the new data witnessed by the distinguished relations between the two countries in an endeavor to further promote them to the level of the two people's aspirations in integration and amalgamation aiming at achieving bilateral unity and Maghreban unity as a decisive step along the path of Arab comprehensive unity.

On this occasion, the two sides stressed their commitment to work seriously and tirelessly to attain the noble peoples as well as the Arab Maghreb masses which were epitomized in the treaty creating the Arab Maghreb Union, signed in Marrakech 17 February 1989.

Egypt

Further on Mubarak's Visit to United States

Meets With Congressmen

NC0404184089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met with U.S. Senate majority leader George Mitchell at Senate headquarters on Capitol Hill this morning. After the approximately 20-minute meeting, Mitchell invited President Mubarak for another meeting with a number of congressional leaders from both the Democratic and Republican Parties. They discussed the latest Middle East developments, the urgent requirements for the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Commenting on these meetings, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid,Egyptian deputy premier and foreign minister-,said that the meetings with Congress had been very useful. He added that the congressmen had expressed their appreciation of President Mubarak's policy, Egypt's fundamental role in consolidating the Middle East peace process, and Egypt's influence on the stability in the region. They also expressed Congress' eagerness to back Egypt in all aspects. 'Abd al-Majid noted that the president had clarified a number of points while answering the Congressmen's questions at the meeting. He described the meeting as fruitful and useful. [passage omitted]

Meets With Secretary Baker

NC0404201889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a meeting today at the State Department with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The meeting, which started at 1115, lasted for 2 and ½ hours and included a banquet that Secretary Baker hosted in honor of President Mubarak.

Speaking to the reporters who assembled in the hall of the State Department after the meeting, President Mubarak said that there had been an exchange of views during the session on the major topics related to the situation in the Middle East, as well as other topics of common interest.

President Mubarak pointed out that he had exchanged views with Secretary Baker on the best ways to achieve peace and create the most favorable atmosphere in order to give momentum to the peace process.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied territories, President Mubarak said that he did not want to go into detail on this subject at present, as the Israeli prime minister would arrive in Washington soon to present his proposals to the officials in the U.S. Administration so that the best means of giving impetus to the peace process could be determined. President Mubarak added: We do not want to support anything until we are sure it will truly help give momentum to reaching peace.

In response to another question on how to improve the atmosphere for peace talks in the region, President Mubarak said: This is among the clear matters.

Responding to another question, he said that no one could stop the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories unless the sons of the Palestinian people are given hope for their future, because they are the ones who are paying the price and are sacrificing their blood and lives.

President Mubarak stressed in his answer to reporters' questions that there is no problem regarding U.S. financial aid to Egypt. He added: The discussions on this subject will continue, but hopefully there will be no obstacle.

Secretary Baker answered a question on the international conference for peace and referred to President Bush's statement yesterday that this conference would convene at the appropriate time. He added that he had been pleased that both President Mubarak and he shared the same views on the need to improve the atmosphere and prepare it first.

Meets Senate Committee Members

NC0504071089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met here this evening with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee led by Senator Claiborne Pell in the Capitol. Senator Edward Kennedy was among those who received the president on Capitol Hill. Members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying President Mubarak in his visit to Washington and members of the Foreign Relations Committee also attended the 1-hour meeting.

On behalf of the committee members, Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, then welcomed President Mubarak and the opportunity they had to discuss a number of important topics with him.

President Mubarak spoke to reporters after the meeting. He said it was customary for him to exchange views with senior officials in the U.S. Administration and Congress. He noted that many important developments had taken place in the Middle East since his last trip to Washington in 1988. These developments, he added, require an exchange of views with our friends here who support us in many fields, both on the outstanding problems in the Middle East and in bilateral relations.

In response to a question, President Mubarak said there is no reason why he should not meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, noting that he recently met with Moshe Arens and Ezer Weizmann. He added that there is no problem with holding such a meeting and that this could take place someday as long as it would be fruitful.

President Mubarak expressed his thanks to the U.S. officials for their cooperation and for warm reception accorded him during his talks with them.

Meets With Secretary Brady

NC0504082189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Mubarak met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady where the president is residing in the Willard Hotel, at 1730 Washington time. During the meeting, President Mubarak and Secretary Brady discussed several financial and economic issues concerning their countries. Particular emphasis was given to Egypt's economic needs and to boosting development in Egypt and accelerating the economic reforms it has begun and will continue to undertake in order to streamline its economy. [passage omitted]

Speaks at White House Banquet

NC0504100989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Mubarak has praised Egyptian-U.S. relations, particularly under the new U.S. Administration led by President George Bush. President Mubarak also lauded the role President Bush is playing in shaping the future of the Middle East region, noting that President Bush's extreme concern for promoting regional peace confirms that the future will be better and safer.

President Mubarak also paid tribute to the role played by former U.S. Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan in helping disputing parties in the Middle East achieve peace. The president made this statement in a speech he delivered during the dinner banquet President and Mrs Bush hosted for President and Mrs Mubarak this evening.

Following is the text of President Mubarak's dinner speech: Mr President; Mrs Bush; dear friends:

Let me first express my sincere appreciation for the friendly reception we have received since arriving in Washington. My meeting with you today, Mr President, is of particular significance since it signals the beginning of a new era in our friendship and cooperation.

Over the years, Mr President, and in your different tasks, you have been a great friend of Egypt and an active participant in shaping the future of the Middle East. Your thoughtful gesture of inviting me to meet with you here in Washington at this early stage, only a few weeks after our meeting in Tokyo, did not go unnoticed.

As we meet today with you, Mr President, and with your able assistants, we look to the future with optimism. Your thorough knowledge of the region and your keen interest in promoting peace assure us of a better and safer future. The American people have chosen you as the torch bearer at a uniquely historic turn, as the entire world yearns to alleviate tensions. People all over the world are seeking just solutions to disputes and the end of all wars. They want to be better equipped to cope with the awesome challenges they confront today and in the future. Issues such as underdevelopment and the environment require urgent solutions.

Over the past 2 decades, four prominent Americans, former Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan and their assistants, played an important role in helping the parties to the Middle East conflict achieve peace. We are grateful to these men and to every American for their genuine concern and moral commitment. Today, President Bush has already started to put his mark on the peace process, only a few weeks after assuming office. We have full confidence in President Bush, his sense of fairness, and his sound judgement.

Your leadership, Mr President, and your commitment as an active participant in the peace process arouse hope in the heart of each Arab and Israeli who yearns for peace. No one is better qualified than you to influence the course of events in this troubled region. Allow me, Mr President, to invite you and Mrs Bush to visit Egypt, when your schedule permits, to continue our dialogue and to discover for yourself the warm feelings that the Egyptian people harbor toward you and the American people.

We share with you a great vision of the future for a better and safer world; this is within our grasp. We count on your leadership and our partnership to proceed together to that bright destination.

In conclusion, allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to express my appreciation for President and Mrs Bush, who are leading this great nation in a new era of hope and dynamism, to all our friends present here, and to all Americans.

Liberal Party's Murad on Mubarak's U.S. Visit

PM0504104089 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 3 Apr 89 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed report: "Mustafa Kamil Murad: Mubarak's U.S. Visit Among His Most Important Political Visits"]

[Text] Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad has stated that President Mubarak's visit to the United States is one of his most important political visits after his EC meeting, the signing of the Arab Cooperation Council agreement and the Egyptian-Saudi bilateral agreement, and the initiation of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

The Liberal Party leader added that he advises the U.S. Administration to study President Mubarak's proposals very thoroughly and carefully so that peace will prevail in the Middle East region and the Arab region, in which U.S. strategic and economic interests are centered. He said that, as is apparent to the whole world, President Mubarak is unquestionably sincere in his call for peace and in his call to resolve the Palestinian problem. He is also sincere in his call to resolve the developing world's problems and the developed states' interests as well. This being the case, the U.S. Administration should not place even minor obstacles—such as freezing the U.S. cash loan of $230 million to Egypt, inflexibility over the use of U.S. aid funds or reducing Egyptian military debts—in the way of that sincere endeavor.

Mustafa Kamil Murad pointed out that these are minor things compared to the benefits that the U.S. Administration would reap from President Mubarak's assistance in achieving peace in the region, especially since U.S. President Bush—by virtue of his long experience and desire to establish peace in the region—fully understands the roots of the problem and its burdens on the U.S. Treasury. Murad expressed hope that the U.S. President will not return to the haphazard U.S. computer so that matters will not be confused in his mind. He should rely on the God of the world—Moses' and Aaron's God—and support President Mubarak in his heartfelt and sincere endeavor.

Mubarak on Regional Issues to Saudi Press

PM3103154489 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 28 Mar 89 p4

[Hashim 'Abduh Hashim report on President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's interview with Saudi press editors—date and place not given]

[Text] His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has welcomed the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, describing his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt as a demonstration of the fraternity and broad and constant coordination between the two countries.

In an interview with the chief editors of Saudi newspapers attended by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Head of the Public Information Authority Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji, the Egyptian president said that the strong and special links between him and the custodian of the two holy mosques in particular are historic, long-standing links of constant, steady, sincere, and cordial contacts based on fraternity, trust, and pure love.

His excellency said the fraternal Egyptian people are happy about the visit because it reflects firm and ideal relations between our two countries and peoples. The Egyptian people's joy at this visit, he said, is reflected in the most magnificent affection for and appreciation of the role played by the custodian of the two holy mosques in the cooperation and ties between the two countries and his role in supporting the causes of this nation and the elements of security and stability in the region.

His excellency said that by coming out and demonstrating their happiness at the visit, the Egyptian people were in fact confirming the warmth and strength of relations between the two countries, which have always and under all circumstances reflected the maximum solidarity, cooperation, and harmony. The Egyptian president pointed out that these relations have never suffered—not even in the worst times of Arab-Arab estrangement—and that contacts, cooperation, and coordination have been permanent and constant.

We in the Arab Republic of Egypt, he said, cannot possibly forget the splendid stands taken by the custodian of the two holy mosques towards Arab Egypt and the various causes of this nation. His excellency described the custodian of the two holy mosques as a great symbol and leader of whom we are all proud because of his sincere efforts and noble cooperation with all brothers at all levels.

The Egyptian president talked to the chief editors about his own concept of the future of the region in the light of current cooperation and coordination. He said: I am optimistic about more joint work through all channels to serve the causes of this nation. He said that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], the Maghreb Union [AMU], and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] were not blocs outside the Arab League. On the contrary, he said, they are good groupings that seek to promote strong cooperation and coordination among our various states with the aim of achieving a wider, deeper, and more comprehensive formula that will bring this nation together, unify its attitudes, and better coordinate its endeavors.

He said he was confident about the nature of this coordination and future cooperation among all because he has faith in the principles of the Arab leaderships participating in these groupings, and that he was satisfied with their constructive aims in the interest of this nation's causes and in the interest of stronger cooperation among its states and peoples. He added that he was sure that the future of these experiments will be good under conditions of mutual trust, goodwill, and sincere endeavors.

His excellency then talked about the role played by the Arab Republic of Egypt in establishing stability in the region. He said: Stability in the Middle East in general and in this region in particular is our main concern because it affects us directly. That is why we are making every possible effort and using every means to promote the right conditions for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace and stability in the region.

He said that the Palestinian question was the central issue in the intensive Arab consultations, contacts, and meetings, and that his country's aim was to use every possible opportunity to move the wheel of peace in the right direction.

His excellency pointed out that the visit of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Cairo coincided with active Arab moves for more detente and sound work. He added that, although the date of the visit was decided some time ago, it was fortunately taking place at an opportune time for more useful and fruitful consultations on the Palestinian question, the situation in Lebanon, the Iraq-Iran war, and other issues.

He said that he would leave his country for the United States next Saturday, by which time these consultations and contacts with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Husayn, and Yasir 'Arafat will have produced a number of ideas that we believe will be important in the period ahead. This, particularly since the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has begun to move in the right direction and there is more understanding now of the idea of an international conference. This encourages the assertion that the time may be ripe for another positive boost to the peace process, regardless of certain discouraging stances on the question of an international conference.

Next he spoke about inter-Arab relations in the period ahead. He said that he wanted to reaffirm yet again that Egypt's relations with the Arabs are fundamental and based on firm principles that do not change with leadership changes, being based on the undivided will of the people, who realize that Egypt's role of permanent support for the Arab nation is essential, constructive, and necessary and that we are ready to make sacrifices for this nation and its causes whenever we are called upon to do so.

His excellency explained that Egypt's ties with the GCC countries were always the deepest, strongest, and firmest of ties; that Egypt's ethics prevent it from taking any other course; and that its traditions, history, and sacrifices prevent it from turning down any Arab request at any level.

True, he said, each Arab state has its own special circumstances that are different from others, but we in Egypt understand these circumstances and approach them on the basis of our faith in our values, principles, and resolute policies. His excellency said that the Arab Republic of Egypt antagonizes no one and that it always opens its arms to its brothers. We welcome everyone, he said, and we welcome the Syrians too, because Egypt considers itself a country embodying the will of all and acts accordingly in all circumstances.

He added that the Syrian and Egyptian media have been noticeably quiet [about one another], and that while that may create better circumstances for mutual cooperation, he wanted to confirm that Egypt had no reservations regarding anyone or relations with any state. On the contrary, he said, we welcome everyone and we welcome cooperation with all and work for international security, stability, and cooperation, and hope that everyone will join these efforts in the interest of the region and its peoples.

Referring to Egypt's efforts in the service of the Palestinian cause, he said: I have visited the United States and talked to the Americans about the peace process and did not hesitate to advise them of the need for contacts with the Syrian brothers to exchange views on aspects of a solution, because we believe that Syria is an Arab state and that its position in the region enables it to take part in these consultations for peace and stability in the region.

Giving his views on developments in Lebanon, His Excellency President Husni Mubarak said he preferred not to talk about the complexities of the current situation but believed that it was unrealistic to view the Lebanese situation in isolation from the Palestinian question, because the Lebanese question was linked to the Palestinian question, so that intensive efforts to find practical solutions to the main issue would result in solutions to all the other issues, particularly the Lebanese issue. He said that the most extensive current moves on the Palestinian question encouraged him to say that everything was possible in the search for a settlement that we have been working for day and night.

His excellency then talked about the situation in Afghanistan. He said that his country viewed Afghanistan as an Islamic state and would like to see the various [Afghan] parties resolve their problems among themselves without any foreign interference and, for the people's sake, put aside their power disputes. This, because in the end only the people would suffer from a continuation and expansion of a conflict that serves neither Afghanistan and its people nor the Islamic nation. He pointed out that his country viewed this issue from an Islamic and international angle and believed that the solution lay in the hands of the various parties involved within Afghanistan itself.

His excellency again spoke about the possibility of reaching a unified strategy for cooperation and coordination among the Arab states. He said: I agree with you that the time is now ripe for reinforcing the elements of moderation in the interest of this nation. He added that past reliance on emotionalism without an in-depth study of the problems resulted in many disasters for the Arab world, but now the situation is different, because the Arab people are now mature and nobody can control them or their will or impose on them anything they do not want.

He said the era of temporary gains and control of one by another was over. This, he said, is the era of collective work without which no interests can be served and no gain made for this nation.

Referring to current proposals for a peaceful settlement, his excellency said there is more than one idea, though we in Arab Egypt favor the principle of a direct international conference and believe that there is no urgent need for a preparatory committee for such a conference. This, because such a committee may not agree on every issue and point and as a result of a disagreement an international conference may not be held, which means that the peace process would stop at that point.

He said that his country saw a need to hold such a conference without preconditions and without exaggerated preparations. The Security Council's five [permanent] members could meet if they so wished and the Arab states concerned should also meet to coordinate their positions in one way or another, but the conference must ultimately be held without any complexes, obstacles, or objections.

He said that he believed in a just settlement and was convinced that that such a conference would give the Arabs their legitimate rights, so no harm can come to anyone from it as long as there is goodwill and a sincere desire to work for peace.

His excellency said he hoped Shamir would change his position on the question of an international conference because his current position could destroy all currently available peace opportunities. His excellency said he believed in a bold, objective, and logical approach to the various issues.

The Egyptian president said he was extremely happy that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was continuing, adding that he has always supported such direct dialogue. When I was in the United States in March 1985, he said, I told them that it would be most useful to deal directly with the Palestinian side because it would enable them to fully discover what they thought and allow the United States to weigh matters more justly. Having heard what the Israeli side had to say, he said, there was a need for it to hear from the Palestinian side directly.

He said that he believed that the settlement of many issues depended on understanding the psychology and ideological and political thinking of the peoples concerned, as well as the ability to deal with them—not prejudge them without any practical contact. We, he said, have long worked for such a dialogue and now, finally, things are going well, thank God. We believe that it will greatly facilitate the peace process, since a settlement can only be achieved on this basis and through these channels. We cannot imagine peace imposed on anyone, since we believe that the parties concerned are capable of resolving their problems and that the other foreign powers play an auxiliary part in bridging the gap, minimizing the differences, and bringing views closer together.

His excellency added: We are fully prepared to do our best to bring the sides closer together. We are doing this and hope to be able to give the peace process a fresh impetus in the coming period.

Paper Says Shamir's Policy Losing World Support

NC3003225789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Mar (MENA)—The AL-AKHBAR newspaper has affirmed that Israel is losing new territory each day in the countries that sympathized with and supported it when it alleged, in its misleading campaign, that it was a peaceful lamb and that all it wanted was to live in peace with its Arab neighbors who reject peace.

In its commentary appearing in today's edition, the paper notes that in just one week, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir received three consecutive blows from three major Western capitals, some of which were staunch supporters of Tel Aviv one day and one of which is still Israel's strongest ally. Within this context, the paper refers to the Elysee Palace's announcement of an imminent meeting in Paris between French President Francois Mitterrand and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. A day before this announcement, the paper says, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared that Israel must negotiate with the PLO. At the same time, the paper adds, U.S. President George Bush stressed that he is becoming more convinced that negotiations based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 may provide the basis for a just and comprehensive peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The paper points out that the successful politician is the one who takes into consideration that any stand he adopts should receive international support to back and encourage him and that international public opinion will sympathize with his stand. However, the paper says, Shamir insists on his intransigent stand. This stand rejects any talks with the PLO, which is recognized by all the major powers as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. The paper concludes by saying that, by pursuing this stand, Shamir is swimming alone against an overwhelming international current, which rejects and denounces all his desperate attempts to elude peace.

'Escalation' in Lebanon, Territories Viewed

NC0204080489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—The AL-AHRAM paper writes that the horrifying clashes in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories prove that in the Middle East there are still some people who believe in bloody solutions and not peaceful means and who claim that sheer force is more effective in achieving results.

In today's commentary, the paper notes that, whenever a positive trend toward peace in the region is in sight, these two hotbeds suffer a flare-up triggered by those who still wish to undermine the search for peaceful settlements, because their regimes are basically established on oppression, aggression, and usurpation.

The purpose of the escalation in Lebanon, in particular, which is the work of various foreign parties, is the same as it has been right from the start: namely, to send a clear message and to demonstrate to those concerned with stability in the Arab world that these parties are ready at any time to use sabotage, disintegration, and killing in order to paralyze the Arab will. These methods are also used to portray an image that contradicts the attempts to reach conciliation and settlement now being made in the region, so that inter-Arab disputes will always remain uppermost in people's minds, the paper notes.

The escalation in Lebanon, the paper adds, necessarily serves a strategic Israeli objective: to distract attention from the barbaric practices undertaken by Israel in the occupied territories and to lead the world to believe that the future acts of Arabs everywhere cannot be trusted and that what Israel is doing to them in the West Bank, Gaza, and southern Lebanon is an attempt on its part to secure itself against a troubled present and an even more troubled future.

The paper concludes by saying that this dangerous game is known and that the parties to this game are the subject of condemnation everywhere, even by their own peoples.

Paper Questions Charges on Chemical Weapons

NC2503072989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 25 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA)—In today's commentary, AL-AHRAM paper takes up a statement by the U.S. State Department official spokesman closing the file of accusations against Egypt over its potential ability to manufacture chemical weapons. The paper believes the objective behind that naive media campaign was to jam President Mubarak's tour of Europe, an aim that proved to be an absolute failure.

The paper ridicules such an attempt and adds that if some parties had deliberately started this campaign to infuse the atmosphere with lies and doubts, why have these same parties failed until now to address the issue of Israeli nuclear weapons in which there is enough evidence to support any objective campaign? The paper adds: If Egypt, which is a signatory to the treaty for the nonproliferation of chemical weapons, has been the subject of a campaign of lies on this, then why should not Israel, which has not yet signed the nonproliferation treaty, be the target of a truthful campaign over chemical weapons?

In conclusion, the paper stresses that such trifles cannot affect Egypt, which has experienced similar trifles before. Egypt, by everybody's testimony, is committed to its declared policy of peace and development.

Arab Organization To Manufacture F-16 Parts

NC2603154889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—An official source at the Arab Industrialization Organization [AIO] has announced that the AIO has signed a contract with the U.S. company "General Dynamics" to produce parts of the U.S. "F-16" airplane.

Libya

Al-Talhi on Improving 'Sour Ties' With U.S.

LD0404120589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1054 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 4 (KUNA)—Libya's Foreign Minister Jadallah al-Talhi was cited here Tuesday as renewing his country's desire to improve sour ties with the United States. Talhi echoed Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi's earlier statements that Tripoli wants to surpass previous tension with Washington, adding: "We are ready for dialogue ... and we are awaiting the response of the new U.S. Administration."

Talhi's reconciliatory remarks, in an interview to be published in the Kuwaiti weekly magazine AL-YAQAZA' on Friday, coincided with an American television report alleging that Libyan-backed groups were plotting attacks on U.S. targets.

International news agencies this morning quoted the American CBS television network as claiming the alleged attacks would be in revenge for U.S. air strikes on the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Banghazi in April, 1986. Libya and the United States locked horns last year too when American jet-fighters downed two Libyan warplanes and American reports later clearly indicated that the U.S. attack was unprovoked.

The Libyan foreign minister, who was interviewed by the Kuwaiti weekly in Banghazi, added that his country is also seeking stronger cooperation with Arab and African states. But he emphasized that Libya would continue to be adamantly opposed to Egypt's return to the Arab League so long as Cairo refused to change its position on its peace with Israel. "At least we must not forget that Israel has an embassy in it, (Egypt)" he said.

Talks Begin With GDR Deputy Foreign Minister

LD0404120489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1031 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Apr (JANA)—The talks between the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and the GDR Foreign Ministry began this morning in Tripoli. The talks were attended by the secretary general of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and Dr Heinz-Dieter Winter, GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting the great Jamahiriyah, and a number of specialists and experts from the two friendly countries.

During the talks, which took place this morning at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, the two sides reviewed the programs of the existing bilateral cooperation and ways to consolidate and develop it through exchanging visits, increasing contacts and coordination in international organizations, and preparing a program for information, cultural, and educational cooperation for the years 1989-91.

Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulates Tunisia's Ben Ali

LD0404180389 Tripoli JANA in English 1453 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi] has conducted a telephone contact with president of sisterly Tunisia, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

During this contact, the leader of revolution has expressed his heartfelt congratulations to President Ben Ali on winning in the presidential election stressing that this consensus expressed by the Arab people in Tunisia reaffirms clearly the slogans and objectives put forward by President Ben Ali on 7th November and have also been expressed by the second Djerba Declaration represented in the unionist orientations between the two sisterly countries, Tunisia and great Al-Jamahiriyah, apart from building a borderless Arab Maghreb endeavouring towards the achievement of the all-embracing Arab unity and the consolidation of freedom.

Sudan

Peace Committee Members Leave for Ethiopia

EA0404132389 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Apr (SUNA)—General Yusuf Ahmad Yusuf, retired, and Prof Hammad 'Umar Baqadi, members of the Peace Committee, left Khartoum for Addis Ababa this morning to officially inform John Garang's movement of the government's acceptance of the Sudanese peace initiative signed last november between the movement and the DUP [Democratic Unionist Party].

Dr Taysir Muhammad Ahmad, member of the Peace Committee, who was scheduled to be in the delegation, said he stayed to monitor what was taking place in the Constituent Assembly and the outcome of its debate, as the assembly is likely to issue a clear decision of its adoption of the peace initiative. He pointed out that the text of the assembly's decision is very important and will help to remove obscurity and difficulties facing the peace operation.

The remaining members of the Peace Committee will conduct a meeting tomorrow, Tuesday [4 April] evening, within the framework of the committee's duties. The committee's scheduled meeting tomorrow morning with the heads of the official diplomatic missions to Khartoum to inform them of the previous peace operation has been postponed due to the departure of the Peace Committee chairman to Saudi Arabia today.

Army Says Rebels Routed at Kordofan 21 Mar

EA0404093989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The Armed Forces General Command the day before yesterday, 1 April, issued the following statement: In the name of God the compassionate the merciful. Victory is from God [words indistinct] God has spoken the truth. Resuming their brave military operations against the remaining outlaws in southern Kordofan on the morning of Thursday, 21 March, our gallant Armed Forces attacked the outlaw camps at Fama, Kurungu Abdullah and [word indistinct].

All these camps were completely destroyed. The outlaws left behind 48 dead in addition to countless other dead and wounded in the hills in the area. Our forces captured three outlaws with their weapons and seized the following: 36 Kalashnikov rifles; 1 modified (Diktorev) gun; 1 rocket-propelled grenade launcher; 21 highly explosive grenades; 1 82mm mortar; and a large number of land mines. Our gallant forces lost one martyr. Three members of the friendly forces and six of our men were wounded.

Our forces are pursuing the remaining outlaws to liberate our good land in southern Kordofan. Heaven and eternal life for our brave martyrs, destruction and shame to the enemies of Sudan.

EEC To Finance Airlift Relief Operations

EA0504094189 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Apr—An agreement was signed here today between the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and the EEC. According to the terms of the agreement, the EEC will finance relief airlift operations from Al-Muglad town in southern Kordofan to Aweil town in Bahr al-Ghazal Region at a total cost of $270,000. The agreement was signed on behalf of the relief commission by Dr al-Haj al-Tayyib and by the EEC representative in Khartoum.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Meets Iraqi Interior Minister

JN0404111089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 4 Apr (WAKH)— Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah received Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab and the delegation accompanying him in Manama today. An official source told the WAKH correspondent that during the meeting they discussed ways to coordinate bilateral cooperation in the field of security.

The source said that relations between Bahrain and Iraq are based on strong foundations of understanding and love. He expected the Iraqi interior minister's visit to result in more cooperation in all fields. WAKH learned that they reviewed all matters related to security issues in the Arabian Gulf region in addition to issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Meets PFLP's George Habash

LD0404131389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1200 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 4 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Tuesday met with Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Dr George Habash in the presence of state minister for foreign affairs and other senior ministry officials.

Following his encounter with Shaykh Sabah, Habash told reporters that the Palestinian uprising was the emphasis of the talks. He said "we sensed high appreciation for this heroic uprising from Shaykh Sabah, who considers it the peak of the Palestinian struggle since 1948." While expressing pleasure over the meeting with the deputy premier and foreign minister, the PFLP ranking official urged Arab regimes to up their support of the uprising, financially and politically.

"Kuwait may not have a large population such as Egypt, or the military might of some Arab states, but this sisterly state enjoys a good reputation and a sincere wish in backing our cause," Habash said. He added "we have requested that this reputation be utilized for the best interest of uprising's children, women and masses, which deserve the support of all."

Asked about his opinion about the latest stance from Washington from President George Bush and his call for an international peace conference, Habash said that the American Administration must voice a clear recognition of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. The PFLP chief considered it an "accomplishment" if Arab leaders were able to convince the U.S. Administration to recognize the right of Palestinians to determine their destiny and establish their state.

Regarding the proposals of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir toward resolving the problem, Dr Habash said that Shamir's ideas go only as far as granting Palestinians self-rule and also aim at aborting the uprising.

Qatar

WAKH: Amir Receives PLO's Faruq Qaddumi

JN0504131189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Doha, 5 Apr (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, in Doha today.

Attending the meeting were Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Faysal 'Uwaydah, PLO representative to Britain; and Yasin al-Sharif, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Doha.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed recent developments in the Palestine question on all levels. They also discussed the current contacts and efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement through holding an international peace conference in a manner guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, foremost being their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their national soil.

The two sides also discussed means of bolstering the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the occupied territories and the escalation of their valiant intifadah [uprising] against the Zionist repression and terrorism until this fraternal Arab people attain their legitimate national rights.

Saudi Arabia

Sudan's State Council Chairman Departs 4 Apr

LD0404132689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 Apr (SPA)—The chairman of the Sudanese State Council, Mr Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, left Riyadh at 2:30 pm today [1130 GMT] after an official visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives Sudanese Counterpart

LD0404112289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 Apr (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, held a meeting in his office at the ministry this morning with Sudanese Foreign Minister Ahmad al-Husayn and the Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mines Dr Bashir 'Umar. Bilateral relations and the general situation in the Middle East were discussed during the meeting. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Cooperation Protocol Signed With USSR 4 Apr

JN0404150889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] A cooperation protocol was signed in Sanaa today by the Yemeni Arab Republic [YAR] Ministry of Interior Affairs and the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs. It was signed for our country by brother Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, deputy minister of interior affairs and Standing Committee member, and for the Soviet Union by Lieutenant General Vasiliy Petrovich, first deputy minister of internal affairs.

In a speech on the occasion, the brother deputy minister of interior affairs noted the deep-rooted YAR-Soviet relations, hailing the role the Soviet Union is playing in entrenching world security and peace and praising the Soviet policy of openness.

For his part, the Soviet official expressed his happiness at being in our country and described the visit as fruitful and successful, adding he has acquainted himself with the comprehensive development achieved under the leadership of the brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He also said the signing of the bilateral protocol between the two ministries will expand cooperation relations in the interest of both two countries.

The signing ceremony was attended by the YAR Ministry of Interior Affairs under secretary, the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs under secretary, the director generals of both ministries, and Soviet Ambassador in Sanaa Veniamin Popov.

Sudanese State Council Member Arrives 4 Apr

JN0404145889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the Sudanese State Council, arrived in Sanaa this morning on a visit to our country lasting several days. In a statement to SABA' upon arrival, he expressed his happiness over his first visit to our country.

He said that during the visit he will meet with brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Arab Republic [YAR], commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to discuss issues of common interest and ways to promote cooperation between the two governments and peoples in the two fraternal countries.

The Sudanese official added that the two peoples of the YAR and Sudan maintain historical close and cooperation relations and that his visit is intended to further strengthen these relations and cooperation areas. He was received by brothers Hasan Muhammad Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr 'Abdallah Barakat, interior minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of health affairs; a number of officials; a representative of presidential protocol; and the Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa.

Spokesman Warns Israel Against 'Aggression'

JN0504100889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Iraq today strongly warned that it will reply strongly to any Israeli aggression against Iraqi scientific and industrial installations.

In a statement to INA, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Iraq will reply in the way it deems appropriate to any aggression carried out by Israel under the cover of fabricated pretexts. The spokesman stressed that no aggression will pass without punishment. The official Iraqi spokesman said that since Iraq succeeded in repulsing the expansionist Iranian aggression which was based on known collusion and alliance between the Iranian regime and Israel, the Zionist circles have been launching successive campaigns to tarnish Iraq's reputation and to instigate world public opinion against it.

The spokesman added that among these campaigns are the fabricated reports and statements recently made by these circles regarding claims Iraq manufactures nuclear warheads. The spokesman stressed that the reasons behind the anti-Iraqi statements can especiallly be understood at this stage following Iraq's decisive success in repulsing the Khomeyniite onslaught and its ability to provide the means of safeguarding the region's security and stability.

The official Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the disruption of the Arab peace campaign, which is led by the PLO, the covering up of the crimes of the Israeli occupation, and the obstruction of international efforts to achieve peace are among the objectives of the aforementioned Israeli statements. He said Israel is currently facing increasing international pressures to inquire about the destiny of the heavy water shipment from Norway, which is suspected to have been used by Israel in manufacturing nuclear warheads.

The official spokesman listed several facts which he described as sufficient proof of refuting the Zionist claims against Iraq and explaining where the true threat to security and peace in the region lies.

The official Iraqi spokesman said that among the facts refuting the Israeli claims is that Iraq has been a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty since it became effective in 1970 and that the International Atomic and Energy Authority [IAEA] is continuing its inspection of Iraqi nuclear installations and their contents of nuclear material several times every year. He said the IAEA is fully informed about these installations and their use and that it has decisive proof that the Israeli claims are false. He added Iraq has supported for several years and still supports the UN General Assembly's resolutions on declaring the Middle East a region free of nuclear weapons based on the following:

1. All parties in the region, including Israel, should join the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and submit all their nuclear installations and activities to the system of IAEA guarantees.

2. All the region's states which have not so far done this, including Israel, should renounce the possession of nuclear weapons and destroy whatever nuclear weapons are in their possession.

3. All the region's states should avoid joining military pacts if one of its parties possesses nuclear weapons and they should refuse to allow any nuclear state to deploy its weapons in the region's states.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed Israel is the only party in the region having an arsenal of nuclear weapons, which, in cooperation with known circles, it has obtained through overt and covert means lasting more than 30 years. He said Israel is the only party in the region having important nuclear installations and that it is not a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and does not place all its installations under international supervision. He added Israel rejects any form of control, including bilateral control, which the United States called for several years ago.

The spokesman added that Israel is the only party in the region that refuses to recognize the others' inalienable right to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Israel has proved this in practice through its armed aggression against the Iraqi July reactor which is devoted to peaceful purposes. This reactor is also placed under the IAEA guarantees and other guarantees Iraq agreed upon at the time with the French Government and the companies that installed the reactor.

The official Iraqi spokesman said Israel is the only party that the UN Security Council has urged, through Resolution No 487 of 1981, to place all its installations under the system of IAEA guarantees. He added Israel has rejected all UN Security Council, UN General Assembly, and IAEA resolutions for more than 10 years. These resolutions called on Israel to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons, join the nonproliferation treaty and place all its nuclear installations under international supervision.

The spokesman stressed that Israel is the only party that adopts a declared policy on attacking and destroying nuclear installations used for peaceful purposes when it decides or thinks these installations pose a threat to its security. He said the UN General Assembly and IAEA resolutions consider Israeli policy part of a nuclear armament policy. He stressed Israel seeks to continue its monopoly of the atomic bomb in the region and to deprive other states of this right through terrorism and the use of force and nuclear weapons against them.

The official Iraqi spokesman urged the international community to pay attention to the objectives of Israeli statements and to assume its responsibility toward them. He said Iraq strongly warns against any Israeli attempt to carry out an aggression against Iraqi scientific and industrial installations under the cover of fabricated pretexts.

He stressed Iraq cannot but reply strongly to any such Israeli aggression in the way it deems appropriate and that the Tel Aviv rulers should realize that if they repeat the aggression which they carried out in 1981 against Iraqi nuclear installations used for peaceful purposes or against any other scientific or industrial installations, then such aggression will not go unpunished.

Information Minister on Lebanon, Israeli 'Threats'

JN0504120589 Baghdad INA in English 1005 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 5, INA—The Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim confirmed here that the general strategy of the Iraqi information will keep on alert to observe all phenomena, variables and suspect alliances against Iraq and the Arab nation besides its tasks in stabilizing the principles of peace, construction and development and immuning [as received] the citizen against destructive ideas.

In a press meeting held last night with correspondents of Arab and foreign agencies, radio and T.V. networks, newspapers and magazines who attended elections of the National Assembly he said that the basis of information trend in the countries of Arab Cooperation Council was the service of the Arab issues. He reviewed the steps pertaining to deepening democracy, multi-party system and freedom of press and publications in Iraq and strength of the Iraqi economy in addition to the Arab information role in supporting Iraq during the years of the war.

The minister touched on peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran and the delay they are facing as a result of the Iranian regime's prevarication and playing with formulas of the Resolution 598, and sequence of its articles and its non-respect of the human international calls concerning the prisoners of the war and putting an end to their suffering.

He also pointed to the Lebanese crisis and Iraq's viewpoint in solving it and said the solution lied in withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, the fighters' putting down their arms and electing a president for Lebanon by the Lebanese will and freedom without any others' mandate. He also referred to Hafiz al-Asad regime's flagrant intervention and efforts to complicate the Lebanese crisis.

On the Zionist entity's recent threats against Iraq and the Arab nation he confirmed that those threats were proceeding from the spirit of the dilemma in which that entity was living as a result of escalation of the uprising inside, establishment of Palestine state and the increasing international recognition of it in addition to the Iraqi victory on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland.

The minister warned the Zionist entity against consequences of those threats and said that factors of the year 1981 were different from those of 1989 in all considerations and on all levels.

Sudanese Party Leader Sends Letter to President

JN0404164889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received a letter from Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], on relations between the party and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and ways to promote them.

The letter was handed today to Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, when he received Taj al-Sir Muhammad Salih, DUP Political Bureau member. During the audience, Mr Salih expressed his pleasure at visiting Iraq and observing the elections for the National Assembly's third session, which were held last Saturday.

UNIIMOG Commander Leaves Baghdad for Tehran

JN0504101889 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 5, INA—The Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group (UNIIMOG) left Baghdad today for Tehran at the conclusion of a six-day visit to Iraq. The Yugoslav general's visit comes within the frame of his mission of inspecting the work of the military observers on both Iraqi and Iranian sides.

Friendship Group Chief Meets Soviet Official

JN0404170089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1542 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—Mr 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, president of the Organization of Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity, today met with Dr. Noel Usmanov [name as received], deputy chairman of the Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Arab Countries. Usmanov praised the cultural development in Iraq and paid tribute to the democratic experience of last Saturday, during which the Iraqi people elected representatives to the National Assembly.

104 Prisoners Released as 'Goodwill Gesture'

TA0504135089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] One hundred and four security prisoners were released this afternoon from Megiddo prison as a goodwill gesture on the eve of the Ramadan fast. Our correspondent in the north reports that the released prisoners were taken by bus to their places of residence, where they were released. Before their release, they met with the prison commanders who asked them to make sure they maintain law and order in the future.

450 Prisoners Released

TA0504164889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Some 450 security prisoners from the territories were released this afternoon as a gesture on the occasion of the Ramadan holiday, which begins tomorrow. At Bayt Jala, there was a ceremony marking the release of 150 prisoners brought there from the Qezi'ot detention center.

A Civil Administration senior officer explained to the prisoners the background of the release, and expressed the hope that they would not return to subversive activities. Several of those released told our correspondent Arye Gus that the action would not influence the continuation of the uprising, and that the release—although frequently done in the past on the eve of Ramadan—is merely a propaganda trick on the occasion of the prime minister's visit to the United States. Several said that their administrative detention orders had expired anyway.

Rabin Comments on Release

TA0504135989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that there is no connection between the release of Arab detainees from the territories and Shamir's trip to Washington. Speaking to our correspondent Hayim Hecht during a tour of the Golan Heights, Minister Rabin said that the releases are merely a conciliatory gesture before the Muslim month of Ramadan. The purpose of this gesture is to make it clear to the residents of the territories that maintaining law and order is in their own interest. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Labor Unlikely To Quit Coalition

TA2903105389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Mar 89 p 2

["Analysis" by Mikhal Yudelman and Dan Petreanu]

[Text] The Labour Party will probably stay in the government regardless of the results of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's upcoming visit to the U.S. Most Labour circles concede that despite recent statements by Hayim Ramon and other Labour doves—who warn that if Shamir's "intransigence" forces a crisis with the U.S., Labour will reconsider its partnership in the government—the present interests and alignments in the party will likely impede any effort to cause a coalition crisis.

Any effort by Labour to bolt the government, according to the coalition agreement between Labour and Likud, would force new elections. Even the Labour doves, who are mostly opposed in principal to Labour's presence in the government, are reluctant to go to the polls again before a serious reassessment of the party's peace stance takes place.

This "reassessment" is taking place on two fronts. On one hand, Finance Minister Peres—aided by only his closest advisors—is personally developing a plan which he intends to propose in case of a Shamir failure in Washington. On the other hand, the party is gearing for an open debate on the issue, beginning with the convening of the central committee for a "day of reassessment" in mid-April.

Even Peres' dovish confidantes are coming to accept that opposition by Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—who has made clear his dissatisfaction with the leaks of the "Peres plan" last week—could torpedo Peres' independent schemes. Peres' aides now speak of a "merging" of the Peres and Rabin plans after prolonged deliberation, which may take several months. In discussions with his closest advisors, Rabin has hinted that he would be willing to moderate his stance to enable the party to reach an "updated" consensus at the end of the "reassessment."

Rabin's position is especially important in light of the recent weakening of the post-election assumption that the widespread party instinct to sack the leadership affects Rabin as well as Peres. Rabin has emerged from the debacle of general and municipal elections relatively unscathed both within the party and in the public at large. Rabin circles have made clear that the defence minister does not rule out an attempt to regain the party leadership.

It is probably for this reason that Moshe Shahal—who is believed to stand a better chance than fellow challengers Mordekhay Gur and Gad Ya'aqobi in the current central committee—does not favour an immediate showdown, in which Rabin might participate.

Gad Ya'aqobi is also opposed to a hasty leadership challenge. Ya'aqobi favours a systematic revision of the party election mechanism, and believes the election of the party chairman should take place in the party's widest elected body, the party convention. Unlike the central committee, which is largely composed of political appointees and loyalists of current party leaders, the convention's 3,000 delegates will all be elected by the party members throughout the country.

Mordekhay Gur, who has said recently that he would agree to set aside the leadership challenge for two years—until the convention—is presently engaged in efforts to bolster his strength in the party and is also not interested in a leadership crisis today.

It was probably to head off Rabin that Gur attempted to create the impression of a united front of the "three challengers" against the leadership when he reported last week that he and the other two had agreed to "coordinate their moves" until the party convention in 1992. This claim, however, was swiftly denied by Ya'aqobi.

Any attempt by Peres to force a coalition crisis after Shamir's return from Washington will therefore likely encounter the opposition of Rabin and his allies, the declared challengers (each for different reasons), and the dovish opponents of the unity government.

Goren on 'Land Day' Events, 'Uprising'

TA3003184889 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor and territories correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem; videotaped in the studio on 30 March, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Ganor] Mr Goren, a general strike has been observed in the territories and Israel today on the occasion of Land Day, and the residents of the territories were forbidden entry into Israel. Although the day has not yet ended, what can you infer from the reports you have received up until you entered our studio?

[Goren] As you said, the day is not yet over, so we must wait and see. So far, however, no outstanding incidents have occurred. We have nothing to complain about in this regard. On the contrary, we are rather pleased. I hope very much that this state of affairs will continue until the end of the day.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, what should the strike, which is being held simultaneously in the territories and in the Arab Israeli sector, teach us?

[Goren] First of all, this is not the first time that such a thing has happened. Last year we had a similar case. There is no question that the intifadah [uprising] has yielded a certain increase in the affinity between the Arabs living in Israel and those living in the territories, and vice versa. As I said, it happened last year too, and was to be expected this year. We hope that the quiet and the situation as I understand it to be right now will continue both in the territories and inside Israel.

[Ganor] Is that thanks to the preemptive measures employed in the territories and in Israel?

[Goren] Undoubtedly the measures we have used, and those implemented by the Israel police inside Israel's boundaries, had to do with this. Nevertheless, it seems to me—and I exercise extreme caution in stating this, since the day is not yet over—that both the inhabitants of the territories and the Arabs of Israel realize that violence, especially increased violence, will actually achieve very little. On the contrary, it will have negative effects. Let us hope this is the case.

[Ben-Menahem] But perhaps if the measures were not as stiff—the curfew on the entire Gaza Strip, for example, or the extended curfews imposed on vast parts of Judaea and Samaria—the situation would have been different?

[Goren] The question is what the alternative is: Violence? Casualties? We know that if we had not employed these measures there would have been violence, and this results in casualties. We prefer avoiding casualties and preventing violence over taking risks. Curfews are merely a means to prevent these occurrences.

[Ganor] Mr Goren, what is your opinion of this prevailing correlation between the inhabitants of the territories and the Arabs of Israel?

[Goren] I would prefer to address myself only to the Arabs of the territories. As I said before, there is a certain affinity, there is a certain measure of identification. I hope it will not exceed these parameters and evolve into violence.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, the prime minister is expected to depart for Washington next week. Are you planning any measures to ease the situation in the territories in anticipation of this visit, say in the form of reopening the schools, releasing detainees, or maybe other steps?

[Goren] We have announced often enough that all the measures we take are considered on an individual basis. I know nothing about special measures that are taken or avoided because of a certain event. We decide on the measures we employ in accordance with the situation in the field.

[Ganor] Do you think the situation in the field warrants clearing the air?

[Goren] Certainly. We hope that it will be possible to employ means to effect greater calm and make things easier on the population the moment conditions for this are ripe.

[Ganor] What are these conditions?

[Goren] This depends primarily on the local population. If it is our impression that greater leniency will breed a lower level of violence and will contribute toward calm, we will definitely not shrink from taking steps in this direction.

[Ben-Menahem] In what way, Mr Goren?

[Goren] There is a very long list of means we can introduce into the area. In other areas, we can make things easier. I would not like to go into detail at this point. Everything depends on how things go.

[Ben-Menahem] Still, perhaps you could give us some examples?

[Goren] It all depends on developments. You probably mean allowing studies in schools to resume. Well, we see no advantage in keeping the schools closed.

[Ganor] This, incidentally, is also what the U.S. Administration has been demanding.

[Goren] What do I need a U.S. Administration demand for? We demand it of ourselves. We want a situation in which it will be possible to reopen the schools. We do not need anyone to advise us on the matter. We realize ourselves that the reopening of the schools would be an important act. Again, the question is: What is the alternative? In Gaza, the reopening of the schools has made a relative contribution to restoring calm. We have tried several times to do the same in Judaea and Samaria, but failed and were forced to again close the schools—primarily in order to prevent casualties among the schoolchildren. We know distinctly that the organizations running the intifadah are pushing the children into engaging in acts of violence which result in casualties. We therefore chose the way that prevents violence and casualties: Closing down the schools.

If conditions ripen and we are satisfied that the reopening of the schools will not result in violence, we will not hesitate to do so.

[Ben-Menahem] We must admit that the issue of the schools' closure in Judaea and Samaria has made life for the local population rather unpleasant, perhaps very unpleasant. After Land Day...

[Goren, interrupting] That is true.

[Ben-Menahem] The demand has been raised by various public bodies and institutions—and, of course, also by parents—that the schools reopen. Once Land Day is over, why not reopen the schools in Judaea and Samaria, say next week?

[Goren] I repeat for the second time, or rather for the umpteenth time: It has nothing to do with a specific date, it depends on the circumstances.

[Ganor] Can you say that you have noticed a change in the circumstances? Do you see the first signs that the conditions have ripened?

[Goren] Not at the moment, although I hope that the local population will understand things just as the Gaza inhabitants have. In Gaza, the parents, and perhaps also those at the fringes or their superiors, realized that it would be in the interest of everyone to have studies resume, which they have. The number of schools that were closed in Gaza was small, standing at—I believe—4 percent of a very large number of schools.

[Ganor] This has to do with the reopening of the schools, but what about effecting more lenient measures in the economic sphere?

[Goren] If by the economic sphere you mean the value of the dinar, or the cold spell, or the problems that the Jordanian farmers have—all this has nothing to do with us.

[Ganor] No, we mean the taxes.

[Goren] We do not want to impose tough economic conditions as a policy. The taxes are collected in accordance with the law, and the taxes collected from the local population ultimately return to it. We never impose taxation in contravention of the law. There is a problem insofar as taxation is concerned. Some people are trying to evade paying their taxes. We take all necessary legal measures against those sectors.

[Ben-Menahem] Nonetheless, Mr Goren, the issue of taxes has been widely discussed in the territories. Do you not believe that there is room for a little more laxness in this area of tax collection?

[Goren] We did just that, but only where possible. Thus, for example, we permitted certain people to reschedule payment of their taxes. Furthermore, at certain times we exercised leniency in cases of taxes imposed on earlier taxes because of overdue payment. These are the measures we can employ, as indeed we have.

[Ganor] Mr Goren, the defense minister, speaking in this studio on this program, suggested holding elections in the territories. Is it your impression, judging by the meetings you and other echelons have been holding with leaders in the territories, that the notion of elections is indeed acceptable to the population?

[Goren] There is as yet no decision on elections. As you know, I implement resolutions. If you ask me to hypothesize about what will happen if a decision is made to hold elections, then I say to you: We will conduct them.

Judging by what we hear from external elements, from PLO elements, we know that they object to elections. We understand their position. We also understand why they hold this view.

[Ben-Menahem] But what is your impression from the talks? After all, you and the heads of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Civil Administration have met with Palestinian personalities from the territories. How do you assess their attitude toward elections? Do they reject the notion out of hand?

[Goren] If you mean the meetings we are holding, then I admit that we do hold talks with various sectors of the population on various issues. There is a tremendous difference between what they say when the meetings are attended by a greater number of people or when they address the press, and what they tell us in more intimate forums—and we have been holding many such meetings as well.

As regards the Rabin plan, I must tell you that they are not rejecting it, certainly not outright. They ask questions, they discuss it, and we can say that they are not scared by the issue and do not fall out of their chairs when they hear about the plan. The moment a decision is made on a certain program, then things will be clearer.

[Ganor] How do you explain the fact that they exhibit this two-facedness, using one language in internal deliberations and a different one to express their views to the public?

[Goren] This population has been in dire straits for a very long time. The people would like to find a solution. They want one to be found, but they are not at liberty to operate the way they would like.

[Ganor] Are you saying that the population is subjected to intimidation campaigns from external elements?

[Goren] Not just that. There is no question that as a result of the intifadah, and even before that, the local population has enjoyed a sense of achievement in the political sphere. We know this and say as much. Regarding the pressures to which the population is subjected, I can give you a very long list of operations undertaken against a docile population in a bid to forestall a state of affairs in which the inhabitants of the territories might assume any degree of responsibility. Let me give you an example: More than 25 individuals have been murdered by Arabs, hundreds of others have been injured, while thousands have been threatened. Recently a new method has emerged and pro-PLO personalities are also threatened against maintaining any contacts with Israel. Furthermore...

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] Who is threatening them?

[Goren] Furthermore, they are also warned against maintaining contacts with foreigners.

[Ben-Menahem] Who threatens them, Mr Goren? Is it the PLO itself, or is it elements outside the PLO?

[Goren] It is certainly the PLO.

[Ganor] Mr Goren, you said that the population with which you maintain contacts talks about a solution and indeed seeks one. Can you tell us what type of solution they have in mind?

[Goren] Look, there is no homogeneity. This is a large and mixed population holding a variety of opinions. What I can say, however, is that the population of the territories is yearning for a political process and that if everything depended on that population alone, I presume it would be possible to find that solution faster and more easily.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, if the offer of elections is accepted and has to be carried out, which do you think would be easier to conduct in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza: political or municipal elections?

[Goren] I would not like to go into specifics with regard to the elections at this stage. This is a political act that is pending the political echelon's decision. As soon as that level makes a decision on this, we will implement it.

[Ganor] But as coordinator of activities in the territories, you will no doubt have some recommendation to make to the Cabinet?

[Goren] Then I will make my recommendation known to the Cabinet, not here.

[Ganor] When you are asked to make your recommendation, which way will you lean?

[Goren] I will make my recommendation to the person who seeks it, and only then will I come to you.

[Ganor] Would it be correct to say that the model set by the 1976 municipal elections cannot be repeated, hence the fear of the notion of elections?

[Goren] I would not like to go into detail about the elections. What I do want to say is that in the meantime the PLO has announced that it objects to the elections, and I understand why: It fears very much that a body that will assume responsibility will emerge here. The PLO would like to see the inhabitants of the territories as marionettes, dangled from strings by the outside.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, is there any chance that the PLO might somehow accept at least an interim stage, and will allow a local leadership to conduct negotiations with Israel?

[Ganor] I would present the question differently: Can you see some signs of an emerging leadership in the area?

[Goren] I do not know. I would avoid... [changes thought] I repeat: The people in the area do not assume responsibility. They prefer to rely on the outside because of pressure and fear of terrorism, among other things.

[Ben-Menahem] What about bodies in the territories that are not part of the PLO, such as Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement? Does it have some leaders who could conceivably be interlocutors in negotiations?

[Goren] Just as there are leaders elsewhere, there are also leaders in Hamas. In this context, however, Hamas is included in the same framework as the PLO, the group of people who fear deciding what they want here. This decision depends on the outside, and they rely on it.

[Ganor] Would Israel regard Hamas members as partners to negotiations as representatives of the population?

[Goren] We are constantly looking for representatives of the population to engage in negotiations. The moment we find them, we will be pleased.

[Ganor] It has been reported that Mr Shamir confers with personalities from the territories. What is the purpose of these meetings on the political level?

[Goren] I do not know the purpose of meetings of which I am unaware.

[Ganor] Did you not participate in them?

[Goren] I participated in meetings attended by the prime minister. He receives detailed reports on what happens, he is aware of the issue, and that is all I can tell you about this.

[Ben-Menahem] Have such meetings been held recently?

[Goren] I repeat: The prime minister meets with the population as well as with individuals and is briefed, and that is all I can say.

[Ben-Menahem] Did you attend some of these meetings?

[Goren] Yes. I do not know about other meetings, but I believe that there were no meetings that I did not attend.

[Ben-Menahem] And those that you did attend were held recently?

[Goren] Please, you are pushing me into something into which I do not want to delve too deeply. The prime minister met with residents of the territories. I do not want to say when the meetings were held, whether recently or not, nor is it so important.

[Ganor] Were these new figures? New people, previously unknown ones? Personalities who emerged in the course of the 16 months of incidents?

[Goren] Meetings were held with representatives of the population, and that is the most I can tell you. We do not want to give names for fear of these individuals' well-being.

[Ben-Menahem] Do they represent the entire political spectrum?

[Goren] I suggest that you move on to other issues.

[Ganor] Mr Goren, Arab elements in the territories have urged the boycotting of meetings with the Civil Administration. Are such meetings nonetheless held, though not on the prime minister's level?

[Goren] Certainly. We meet with all the sectors of the population without exception. At all levels.

[Ben-Menahem] What do you discuss?

[Goren] Whatever they bring up, mainly involving daily matters. This is actually our chief mission, as the political issue is up to the politicians. We deal with the population's daily affairs. In these areas, contacts have continued uninterruptedly with the entire population. Recently the PLO and other extremist organizations have tried to hamper such meetings. I hope they will be unable to stop these contacts that the population wants.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, the heads of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Civil Administration have been holding meetings with representatives of the population almost on a weekly basis. Do you participate in these meetings yourself?

[Goren] I participate in the meetings, although I cannot participate in all of them. Many are held and not a day passes without a meeting. I participate in some, I cannot participate in all of them, nor is this necessary.

[Ganor] Are they purposeful and beneficial?

[Goren] Definitely. The very contact we have with the population, the fact that despite the stress that the local population faces we are nevertheless able to render services, is in itself very important.

[Ganor] Do they come of their own free will, or do we force them to show up at these meetings?

[Goren] Forgive me, most of the meetings are held because they request them. Some of the meetings I attended were held because they requested them. They want to meet not only with me, but also with the leaders of the Civil Administration, the local military governors, and with General Staff representatives. These meetings are held on a regular basis.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, when you meet with these people—and after all, these meetings are held, as you say, for the sake of discussing daily matters—when they raise the political issue, what do you tell them?

[Goren] We listen to them. They know that we are not the political level, and that their requests are later relayed to it. We do not deal with the political issues, we deal with the population's daily affairs. Believe me, there is a lot to be done despite the circumstances brought about by the intifadah. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, several views have been raised on the trend toward which the intifadah is leading. Do you think it necessarily leads to the establishment of some political entity or a Palestinian state?

[Goren] I would not say that this will necessarily lead to the establishment of a Palestinian entity. There is, as well, currently less talk of a civil uprising. It is a fact that the PLO tried to sever connections between the authorities and the population, but failed. It is a fact that the locals do come to Israel. Let me merely mention one simple example: The residents of the territories work in Israel, earning approximately 1 billion shekels per annum. Do they have another alternative?

[Ben-Menahem] If so, where is it all leading Mr Goren?

[Goren] Is there any other alternative? The population's ties with Israel are undeniable. Incidentally, I very much hope that no security reasons will force us to harm this link. This would be a very bad move. Those who will suffer from this, by the way, will be the locals. As far as we are concerned, and to the extent that it depends on us, we will continue to provide the same services and maintain the same ties with the population. We have a long list of areas in which we work. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Menahem] Mr Goren, one of the phenomena that has emerged during these 16 months is the establishment of what the Palestinians have dubbed a popular army in the territories. Is this really an army?

[Goren] No. We have grown accustomed to these terms cropping up both before the intifadah and when it first broke out. Once it was referred to as Al-Shabibah, later the popular committees or the strike forces, and then the popular army. Now we hear about Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] battalions, as they are called in the leaflets. All in all, this is the same thing with minor cosmetic changes.

[Ben-Menahem] Meaning?

[Goren] Meaning that there is a hard core, which is basically made up of youths, who actually carry out the intifadah, whether by way of issuing publications, disseminating leaflets, or using force on the street in an effort to sustain the intifadah as we have known it.

[Ganor] And what is the security forces' reaction to this?

[Goren] You must be aware of it. We use the security forces in accordance with the law in an effort to lower that level.

[Ganor] Is the introduction of the Border Police into the cities in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip part of the solutions raised to contend with the phenomena you mentioned?

[Goren] Of course. This forms part of a series of means employed by the defense establishment, primarily the army. From time to time, some changes are introduced, as part of which some units are redeployed in other places, or new units are brought in.

[Ganor] But what is so special about the Border Police compared to the Israel Defense Forces?

[Goren] It is unique in that it is more permanently stationed there, it has more experience, and is better trained. Naturally, it enjoys its own advantages. [passage omitted]

Knesset Member Queries Probe of IDF Conduct

TA2903141389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 89 p 2

[Report by military affairs correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] Since the outbreak of the intifadah [uprising], 600 charges have been filed against soldiers and civilians working for the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] regarding suspected aberrant behavior. (These include investigations of all deaths brought about by unnatural causes.) So far the military courts have received 27 files. A total of 46 soldiers and 2 civilians working for the IDF have been tried. These statistics were compiled by Knesset Member 'Oded Zucker (Citizens Rights Movement) in a letter he sent to the defense minister and the attorney general this week. [passage omitted]

Zucker reports that only seven cases involving deaths (out of 370) have reached the courts. In four of them the suspects were tried for "causing death through negligence." The other three suspects were charged with manslaughter. In the seven cases in which detainees were killed in detention facilities, either the suspects were never tried or the investigation has not yet been completed.

Files concerning death investigations that were opened in February 1988 are still pending. In four instances, sentences ranging between 18 months imprisonment and 5 months suspended have been rendered. Of the 27 cases that have been debated by the courts, 7 are death cases, 3 involve "unbefitting conduct," 1 has to do with extortion through threats, 3 deal with harassment, 6 involve thefts, 3 concern the illegal use of weapons, another regards sabotage with malice aforethought (that incident ended in death), 2 cases involve assault and battery, and one deals with injuries sustained under grave circumstances.

The sentences given in the theft cases (usually these involve money stolen from detainees or from people being inspected at an army barricade) have ranged from 2 weeks to 6 months. Suspended sentences were given in the cases of unbefitting conduct.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 29 March carries a report by 'Imanu'el Rosen on page 9 of section A, adding that "an official military source told MA'ARIV yesterday that of the 273 files on death cases that have been opened since the beginning of the intifadah, the military courts have received only 12. The others have either been closed, transferred to the courts for disciplinary action, or are pending the Military Advocate General's decision. Another 52 files are still being probed by the Military Police, among them 8 instances whose investigation has been continuing for more than a year."]

'Terrorists' Aboard Lebanese Vessels Detained

TA0504090089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Report by military correspondent 'Amos Har'el]

[Text] Navy ships on a routine patrol yesterday morning sighted two suspicious Lebanese boats that were making their way from Lebanon to Cyprus. An investigation revealed that the vessels were carrying several passengers who are suspected terrorists. The passengers were taken off the boats and brought to Israel. The boats, their crews, and the other passengers were released and allowed to continue their voyage.

Terrorist organizations continue their activities in the Tyre and Sidon area, and the number of terrorists in the refugee camps around Tyre was recently believed to be around 1,000. They arrive in southern Lebanon mostly by sea, making their way from Cyprus aboard ships and fishing boats.

Last December, navy ships stopped a Lebanese vessel manned by a crew of three that had routinely transferred terrorists. Earlier, in August 1988, while cruising in the mid-Mediterranean, the navy seized a Fatah vessel that was carrying four officers of the Fatah naval force and two crewmen.

Besides transporting terrorists to Lebanon, the terrorist organizations pursue their attempts to infiltrate into Israel and the security zone from the sea. In recent years, the Israel navy has managed to foil all infiltration attempts from the sea. In addition, the navy occasionally seizes terrorists who arrive by sea in an attempt to join their forces in Lebanon.

IDF Soldier Wounded in Security Zone

TA0404173389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] This afternoon an Israel Defense Forces [IDF] soldier sustained moderately grave injuries in the central sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. The soldier belongs to an IDF unit that was engaged in routine operational activities in the central sector, north of the village of Hasbayya. The soldier sustained the injuries as he stepped on a mine. He was evacuated by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Commentator on Possible Bombing of Iraqi Reactor

TA0204130589 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Apr 89 p 18

[Commentary by 'Uzi Mahanaymi: "This Time It Is Going To Be Hard To Bomb There"]

[Text] The Israeli air force attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in June of 1981 and the disclosure of "Israel's nuclear capability" in 1986 by Mordekhay Vanunu have accelerated the Arab race for strategic weapons. Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Libya are all making special efforts to equip themselves with nuclear arms (Iraq), and chemical-biological weapons (Syria, Egypt, and Libya.) At the same time, they procure and develop long-range missiles by means of which their nonconventional warheads are effectively transposed hundreds of kilometers closer to the target.

Iraq never gave up its intention to produce nuclear weapons. Only last week the Iraqi ruler revealed that Saudi Arabia is financing the renovation of the power plant. The Syrians have devised an advanced network of chemical and biological warheads that could be mounted on their long-range surface-to-surface missiles. The Egyptians are developing their Condor-2 missile which, once completed, could be equipped with a conventional or other warhead and be aimed at nearly any target in the Middle East. The Libyans are not far behind.

It is no secret that the presence of nonconventional weapons in Arab countries has aroused grave concern among top Israeli defense echelons. Defense Minister Rabin has already expressed these sentiments several times in the past. There may also be a great deal of truth in the arguments of U.S. specialists who contend that Israel will have to learn to live with the new regional strategic reality.

An attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor currently seems a tough mission, albeit not an impossible one. Iraqi retaliation for such an attack seems quite realistic today, as Iraq has stated rather clearly and openly. Strategic weapons will not decide the next war. Their presence in some Arab countries compels Israel to realign itself properly insofar as its military readiness is concerned, particularly after a close review of the various peace offers.

Agriculture Minister on Cooperation With Jordan

TA0204183189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Israel's Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz says Israeli and Jordanian decisionmakers in the last 2 years have agreed on production quotas in Judaea and Samaria. Israel has supplied Jordan with air photographs of agricultural areas in the territories. Katz-'Oz added that Israel was now the main fresh food and semiprocessed food supplier of the market centered in Jordan which supplies food to all the Middle East countries and the Persian Gulf. Prof Gad Gilbert said Israel supplied about $1 billion of agricultural produce annually to countries in the region. Both men were speaking to the Club of Economic Investors in the Middle East.

Katz-'Oz Denies Exports

TA0404094289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Apr 89 p 8

[Report by the agriculture correspondent]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz yesterday denied saying that Israel exports $1 billion a year worth of fresh and partially processed food to Middle Eastern and Persian Gulf countries.

Katz-'Oz said he had been referring to exports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and not from Israel, adding that the figures he had provided applied to the period 1984-87 and not to one year. The Agriculture Minister had been speaking at the Middle East Economic Entrepreneurs Club.

In 1988, total exports from the territories to Amman—the transit point for the rest of the Arab world—amounted to only 15,000 tonnes of tomatoes, 5,000 tonnes of olive oil, and 60,000 tonnes of citrus fruits and vegetables, according to Katz-'Oz. He said that when there is finally peace between Israel and its neighbours, the Arab countries would become an ideal market for Israeli agricultural produce.

Jordanian Said Setting Up Group To Meet Shamir

TA0404160489 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] A senior Jordanian official arrived in the West Bank yesterday. According to Palestinian sources, he is to participate in setting up a delegation of Jordan supporters to be received by the prime minister upon his return from Washington.

The man is Ratib 'Amr, head of the Palestinian desk in the Jordanian Foreign Ministry. After the dissociation from the West Bank, the functions of the "Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs" were transferred to the Foreign Ministry. Some time ago Ratib 'Amr represented the Jordanian Government at the funeral of Palestinian leader Rashad al-Shawwa.

Reports of the planned meeting between the supporters of Jordan and the prime minister were published a short time ago by AL-NAHAR, the Jordanian supporters' organ, but were denied by the Prime Minister's Office. The reports mentioned a group of approximately 30 men. These men said that they would not attend the meeting with the prime minister, if one were to be held.

PLO Government Announcement Said Delayed

TA0404152389 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Informed Palestinian sources stated in Cairo last evening that the PLO has decided to delay the announcement of the final formation of a provisional Palestinian Government. The announcement will not be made until the PLO reaches agreement with the United States about the Palestinian problem within the framework of the continuing dialogue between Washington and the PLO.

In another development, diplomatic sources in Cairo said that the U.S. Administration is trying to persuade Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to visit Israel in the near future. The aim of the visit would be to adopt practical steps to normalize Egyptian-Israeli relations.

New ID Confiscation Regulations Being Drafted

TA0204124089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Text] In view of the recurrence of cases in which Arabs' identity cards are deliberately confiscated by soldiers, often in contravention of the law, the Military Advocate General's office is presently drafting a special decree to regulate the issue. The decree will clearly stipulate what the soldiers may or may not do in that regard.

The decree comes against the backdrop of the appeal to the High Court of Justice submitted last week by seven Arabs and the Civil Rights Association against Israel Defense Forces [IDF] officers in the West Bank for confiscating identity cards. The exact date for issuing the decree will depend on a High Court of Justice session. At any rate, it seems that the Military Advocate General's instructions will have to be endorsed by the Supreme Court justices.

According to the new regulation, IDF soldiers will be permitted to seize the identity card of an inhabitant of the territories if he is wanted for detention but cannot actually be detained. The soldiers will be permitted to take the document and force its owner to report to the local police station or Civil Administration office.

The soldiers will provide the inhabitant with a certificate indicating that his identity card had been seized. This alternative document will make it possible for that person to continue to travel freely until he gets his identification back. The soldiers will also be permitted to confiscate identity cards from locals to force them to restore calm and order.

The local inhabitants will be obligated to remove barricades, lower flags, and erase graffiti. The soldiers will have to ensure that the instructions do not involve any risks to the inhabitants' lives. This precaution will be taken in view of cases in which Arab youths were electrocuted, having been ordered to remove PLO flags from electricity pylons. The confiscation of identity cards in such cases will therefore be limited in duration. The soldiers will be able to hold it only for the time it takes to lower the flag.

Soldiers and Civil Administration workers will not be able to confiscate identity cards to force payment of taxes, car repairs, or any other civic duty.

Palestinians, IDF Provide Casualty Toll

TA0504095889 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 5 Apr 89 p 10

[Report by 'Anat Saragosti]

[Text] On Monday, 3 April, the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] spokesman reported that 327 Palestinians have been killed in the occupied territories. This figure includes only those killed by IDF soldiers' gunfire. According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinians killed has reached 437.

Palestinian sources, however, report that 547 have been killed according to the following breakdown:
—371 killed by IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
—72 dead by asphyxiation.
—45 dead by beatings and electrocutions.
—59 dead from other reasons.

Unrest Incidents Target Residents, Collaborators

TA0404165489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Apr 89 p 7

[Report by Shmu'el Tall]

[Text] Of the 2,700 terrorist incidents in the territories since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising], one third were perpetrated against mukhtars, mayors, and people suspected of collaborating with Israel. According to official data released by the defense establishment, 11 of the Civil Administration's 19 employment exchanges and 41 bus stations have been set on fire since the beginning of the intifadah.

Settlers Pose as Press Members in Clashes

TA0204122489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Apr 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] [Passage ommitted] On Friday, a group of settlers with "press" signs on their cars entered the village of Bani Na'im, and stone-throwing clashes erupted when local youths discovered their true identity, Palestinians said. Photographers saw two settlers whose car was stoned fire repeatedly at fleeing Palestinians. According to Arab reports, the settlers stoned local homes and entered the home of the mukhtar, 'Umar Manasra, 70, beating him on the head and smashing windows and furniture. Manasra was treated at 'Aliya Hospital. Troops who arrived on the scene to break up the clash fought with youths and withdrew after the settlers left the area, Palestinians said. Vigilante patrols by settlers in vans with "press" signs and flying Israeli flags sparked clashes in several villages in the Hebron area on Land Day, according to local reports. A KAKH activist was spotted Friday travelling with a "press" sign north of Ramallah.

Inside Ramallah, a car belonging to a Visnews TV crew and carrying "press" signs had its windshield and lights smashed yesterday. The incident occurred during an altercation nearby between the crew and Border Police, who ordered the newsmen out of the area. It was unclear last night whether the car was vandalized by the police or by Palestinians who suspected the vehicle was being used by security men or settlers.

In response to the settlers' actions, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokeswoman said the army could not prosecute people for travelling with "press" signs. The Israeli Journalists Association was last night examining possible legal action against the settlers on grounds that their posing as journalists was endangering the lives of reporters in the territories.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Tourist Hurt in East Jerusalem

TA0404113389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] A tourist was hit by a stone thrown at him on Hagay Street in the Old City of Jerusalem this morning. The tourist was treated on the spot and continued his tour. Salah al-Din Street in East Jerusalem was closed to traffic and pedestrians after an Egged bus was stoned; several windows were shattered but there were no injuries. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that police forces are currently searching the area.

'Terrorist Squad' Uncovered

TA0404174789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The security forces in Judaea and Samaria have recently uncovered a terrorist squad, suspected of having perpetrated 16 attacks in Israel's central region, in the village of Hajjah near Qalqilyah. The squad had been active in the last 3 years and its attacks resulted in the wounding of 13 Israelis and Arabs.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the squad planted a makeshift bomb in a bus driving from Tel Aviv to Kefar Sava 3 years ago. Five Israelis were wounded in the ensuing explosion. About 2 years ago they planted a makeshift bomb in a restaurant in Qalqilyah. Five Israelis and two Arabs were wounded in the ensuing explosion. The members of the squad were recruited by Fatah in Jordan.

Gaza Neighborhood Curfew Off

TA0404192089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The curfew that had been in effect in Gaza's Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood for 15 consecutive days was lifted today. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that quiet prevailed today in the Gaza Strip. The army has not yet received any reports about casualties. Curfews remain in effect in the Al-Nusayrat, Al-Burayj, Al-Mughazi, and Jabalyah refugee camps, as well as in Rafah's Shabura neighborhood.

Curfew Clamped on Al-Am'ari

TA0404203889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] A curfew was clamped on the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah this evening. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several Arab youngsters were wounded by army gunfire in riots in the camp. Nine Arabs were wounded by soldiers' gunfire in other incidents elsewhere in Judaea and Samaria.

King Husayn Telephones Syrian President 1 Apr

JN0104201689 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] His majesty the king today made a telephone call with the Syrian president, Mr Hafiz al-Asad. The two leaders exchanged views on a number of issues of bilateral interest.

Agreement on Electricity Signed With N. Yemen

JN2803091689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra, J.T.)—A delegation representing the North Yemeni Electricity Authority (NYEA) will arrive here in April to implement an agreement signed by the NYEA and the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on Sunday, according to a JEA announcement. It said that agreement on the visit was reached in talks conducted over the past two days by the two sides led by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham al-Khatib and the Yemeni Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs Jamal Muhammad 'Abduh.

In the meantime, the announcement said, the JEA will go ahead with a project of preparing designs, specifications and tender documents pertaining to electrification projects in North Yemen. The project entails supplying electricity to 800 villages and human settlements in North Yemen through a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

The agreement which was signed Sunday provides for mutual cooperation in electricity generation, maintenance and management, the development of power generating units, setting up power control units, installing transformer stations and power line networks and power distribution fields. Both sides agreed to set up a committee to follow up the implementation of the agreement.

'Clarity and Boldness' of Bush Remarks Praised

JN0504085389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Tough Time Mr. Shamir"]

[Text] So it came to pass that President George Bush has declared in no uncertain terms during his talks with President Husni Mubarak that Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories, recognise the political rights of the Palestinian people and prepare itself for an international peace conference that may have to be convened after thorough preparations. Not since the days of former President Dwight Eisenhower did the Middle East hear such clarity and boldness in American thought regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict.

President George Bush and his top team of advisers, like Secretary of State James Baker, deserve to be commended for spelling out the American conception of peace in the Middle East in the clearest possible terms for all parties to comprehend and take notice of its contents. For the forces of peace in the Middle East, whether on the Arab side or on the Israeli side, the recent American pronouncement on conditions for a settlement will indeed heighten expectations in the region for a real breakthrough in the stalemated peace process.

No less important is the timing of such elucidation of American stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was en route to Washington to meet President Bush and his senior aides when news flashes carried Bush's dramatic pronouncements on peace in the Middle East. From the looks of it, Shamir is heading for a real showdown this time in Washington and the prospects are high that he will emerge from his first encounter with the U.S. president with ruffled feathers. Mr. Shamir has been hitherto spoiled beyond all reasonable bounds by earlier treatements that he had been accorded on previous missions to America. He had always got away with what he wanted and had never found someone tall enough to stand up to him.

It appears that time has arrived to call a spade a spade in the first official encounter between President Bush and Shamir. Such positive developments augur very well for the peace process in the Middle East. Even Israel stands to profit from this boldness in the American position regarding its conflict with its Arab neighbours including the PLO. Taking a firm stand with one's allies and friends can often do them immeasurable good in the long run. Israeli leaders, like Shamir and Sharon, have demonstrated time and again that they cannot see beyond their noses.

It is the duty of the friends of Israel to show them the way to see beyond their noses by talking to them straight and eyeball to eyeball. That is how the forces of peace see President George Bush doing with visiting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. [sentence as published] President Bush might not succeed in the first round but surely he will eventually succeed with perseverance and when President Bush does succeed as is expected, he will go down in history as the American chief executive who triumphed when all others have failed.

AL-RA'Y Urges U.S. To Expedite Conference

JN0504121389 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Apr 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Washington Between the Will and the Action"]

[Text] The first meeting between Presidents Bush and Mubarak resulted in an announcement that both parties want to end Israel's occupation of the territories it captured in 1967 and that Bush supports holding the international conference at the appropriate time. This means they agree on the objective and that the only disagreement is on the appropriate timing of holding an international conference.

On the other hand, one notes that Shamir considers the termination of the occupation as being a precondition which he does not accept. He also rejects the idea of an international conference, the participation of the PLO in the peace process, and insists on terminating the uprising as a precondition for the elections he proposes to hold in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This proposal is aimed at finding an alternative Palestinian representation to the PLO.

This means Shamir has arrived in the United States while still committed to his traditional noes; namely, his refusal to exchange land for peace, negotiate with the PLO, and to hold an international conference. It is clear that in light of these noes any new ideas he will submit will be useless so long as they do not change anything in the intransigent Israeli stand.

From this premise, one cannot but become certain that Shamir does not have any serious intention to activate the peace process in the region, particularly since this process needs a commitment to basic conditions which are represented in accepting the exchange of land for peace, the participation of the PLO in the peace process, and convening an international conference. This means there is no need for new ideas, but for a commitment to these basic conditions on which the international community has reached agreement for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

It is worth mentioning that the U.S. refusal to admit it is time to convene an international conference is in itself an obstacle toward the activation of the peace process. The disagreement with Washington, although it deals with only the question of timing, will ultimately result in obstructing the beginning of the peace process and will expose the region to grave complications with untold consequences.

It is obvious that entering into a controversy over the appropriate timing for convening an international conference means diverting attention from the urgent issue which is the issue of peace. It would be better if one does not waste time but rather steers the Arab-Israeli conflict toward a just and comprehensive peace. This necessarily requires expediting the holding of the conference.

Thus, Washington is called upon to abandon the new obstacle it has fabricated: the obstacle of appropriate timing for holding an international conference, especially since there is a semi-consensus on the part of the international community that the present is the most appropriate time to hold the conference and there is no reason for delaying its convocation.

It is true that Presidents Mubarak and Bush have expressed a joint determination to end the Israeli occupation of the usurped territories, but it is necessary for the United States to positively substantiate this determination by expediting the convocation of the international conference and by forcing Israel to participate in it, abide by its objectives, and abandon the three meaningless noes.

Columnist on 'False Rumors' Regarding IMF Talks

JN0204073689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Apr 89 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "IMF Blames Deficit Not Exchange Rate"]

[Text] People in the street and in business circles were flooded last week by false rumours that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation currently in Amman was unhappy about fixing the dinar's rate of exchange since February 9, at 540 fils to the dollar, and that the IMF experts recommended to the government to further devalue the dinar, or to go back to the free floating system, and leave the exchange rate of the local currency to find its real value in the market according to supply and demand.

As a result of this wide spread rumour, the normal flow of dollars to the banking system was adversely affected, due to negative expectations for the dinar, and possible benefits from the assumed imminent decline of the dinar value against foreign currencies. The banks and financial corporations in turn started to hesitate to sell dollars to the public and to importers. Jordanian exporters and expatriates were placed under the wrong impression that they stand to gain and get more dinars for their dollars by simply waiting.

No doubt, the Central Bank and the government were aware of the rumour, they know it was not true and baseless, they realised its negative consequences, yet they were not willing to issue an official denial due to two reasons: First, the Central Bank and the government cannot follow each rumour and issue an official correction, otherwise rumours will be taken as facts unless and until they were formally denied. Second, official denial of certain rumours may give them undeserved credibility. Some people may think that the denial is all but an evidence that there is something that needs smoke for cover.

However, it remains in the general interest of the national economy, the exporters, the expatriates, and those who deal in foreign exchange to make the full truth available so that people can base their acts on solid facts not baseless rumours. The delay of economic or financial action has a high price. It hurts all concerned, over and above the damage to the economy and public interest.

Therefore, I think it is in the interest of all concerned to reveal all the facts to the public. Based on sources very close to the IMF delegation, currently working in Jordan, the IMF experts did not actually express any objections to the prevailing exchange rate of the dinar. They are for a real stability of the exchange rate, and they believe that 540 fils to the dollar is not unreasonable. In summary, they have no problem with the present exchange rate.

The problem, according to the informed sources close to the IMF experts, lies in the relatively big deficit in the central government budget, estimated to be 22 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). According to those experts, such deficit, if allowed to persist, will render any exchange rate impossible to work successfully or be sustainable.

The target that the IMF experts are said to be advocating is the gradual reduction of the budget deficit by around 3.5 per cent of GDP a year, for five years, until the deficit is not larger than five per cent of GDP, which is a tolerable rate that does not undermine economic and monetary stability.

We have finally to admit that previous irresponsible financial practices has a price which must be paid by the people, whether we call on the IMF for help or we don't. The price may be even higher if we don't.

AL-RA'Y Asserts Dinar 'Will Not Be Devalued'

JN0304094589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Apr 89 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "We Are in a Sound Situation"]

[Text] Because clear facts are stronger than tendentious rumors, our economic, financial, and monetary situation is stronger than the rumors, which are either made out of misinterpretation or ill will. Contrary to these rumors, the dinar's exchange rate will not change and our currency will not be devalued. We will continue to move toward adaptation with the requirements of the current stage. We will abandon a propensity for consumption and adopt behavior more in line with the stage of production. Supply materials will continue to be subsidized. In light of this outcome that has been reasserted by the finance minister's report to the Council of Ministers, it becomes clear that our national move which we started a few months ago to rectify and develop our economic situation has achieved significant success. This success has been praised by United Nations Development Program resident representative in Jordan.

It goes without saying that this move, which has been entrenched by his majesty the king, is based on the citizen's awareness, effort, cooperation, and innovation. Reformulating and rectifying the current situation is a common responsibility that we all shoulder, since we are an indivisible part of the process of rectification and development. Hence, we should be aware enough to understand facts and leave rumors to wither away all by themselves. We should be a force supporting the process of rectification and development whatever our positions are. We should not remain inactive and demand everything from the government.

The hard period which we faced has passed, as his majesty the king said. It is a common responsibility to strongly participate in developing our economy, because nobody else will do it for us. We have to employ all our energy and innovation in this regard. Promoting the homeland's economy is a national issue which concerns all of us. Moving from the stage of consumption to the stage of production requires all of us to play his role and follow the behavior which leads to this shift. Thus, our march can achieve its objectives.

The individual in our society is the aim and end of progress. Therefore, it is natural that the individual will be responsible for reformulating the present and building the future. The individual in our country has always given the best of his effort and services to our one family.

With his wise leadership, King Husayn managed to grant Jordan undeniable international credibility. This credibility entrenches world confidence in the soundness of our economy and currency. It also entrenches confidence in our brave march toward economic and social progress and development. Our march will continue to move ahead, stronger than ever before. This march is supported by belongingness, self-denial, innovation, and common responsibility—the factors which characterize our citizens and constitute the solid ground of our coherent society.

U.S. Ambassador's Residence Again Hit by Shells

NC0504082689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0820 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Syrian shells have hit the residence of U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy in Al-Yarzah for the third time. The shelling has caused a fire which is still raging in the residence.

Syrian Shelling Extends Further North to Jubayl

NC0504091389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0848 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Most of the coastal and mountain areas of southern and Upper al-Matn are coming under treacherous Syrian shelling. A number of shells fell a few minutes ago on the Jubayl coastal area. They were fired from north Lebanon. This was preceded by violent and concentrated shelling of B'abda, particularly in the presidential palace vicinity, the Al-Matn coast, and Kasrawan. We have also received reports that fiece clashes have raged on the front lines in the capital's market areas. The port area and the surrounding residential areas were hit by several shells from the areas of Al-Awza'i, 'Aramun, Tilal 'Anqun, and Phonecia. [passage omitted]

Security reports received by Radio Free Lebanon say Syrian occupation forces have received orders from Damascus to shell the area extending from B'abda to Al-Mukallis and as far as Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Hadath, Al-Jumhur, and Al-Yarzah in a concentrated and continuous manner to prevent French Envoy Jean-Francois Deniau from arriving to meet the prime minister at the presidential palace as scheduled. [passage omitted]

Another report just received says coastal Al-Matn is still coming under fire from Syrian launchers. The Jubayl coastal area is still being shelled by the Syrian occupation positions in Al-Kurah [in north Lebanon].

Syrians Reportedly Using Chemical Weapons

NC0404131289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Diplomatic sources have noted that Lebanon is experiencing the worst wave of violence in 14 years. According to military experts, the Syrian occupation army used phosphorous bombs against several Lebanese areas during the past 24 hours, particularly last night, causing destructive fires in homes and institutions and killing or wounding several persons. Such incendiary bombs, which are life-threatening, are prohibited by international charters.

In another development, security sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that the fire which broke out in the Al-'Ibadiyah area at 2300 last night involved prohibited chemical material. This, according to the sources, forced the Syrian occupation troops to evacuate the inhabitants of Al-'Ibadiyah township and adjacent villages, for fear of the consequences, particularly because the fire blazed until this morning.

The security sources noticed that the Syrian soldiers were using gas masks. They noted that the foul smell reported in certain areas was due to the fact that the Syrian supplies of these materials were burned, causing the smell to spread to these areas.

Experts are in possession of samples of this lethal and toxic material and are ready to show them to diplomats and Arab and foreign reporters.

Michel 'Awn on Syria, Military Situation

JN0404191889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1724 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with General Michel 'Awn, prime minister of the military government, by Antoine Nawfal on 4 April—live or recorded]

[Text] Mr Prime Minister: It is noted that for the first time there is a serious international effort in support of the Arab move. Does this give you a feeling that what you have thus far done has begun to bear fruit and that the international concern for Lebanon has, to a certain extent, attained the aspired level?

['Awn] Naturally, this is the beginning of concern, but not sufficient concern as long as the international community cannot so far give things their correct name. We ask the international community and particulalrly the sisterly Arab states which are helping us to resolve the problem to give things their correct name. For instance, the appeals made by all parties to cease fire are ambiguous. They say the disputing parties in Lebanon, forgetting, for instance, that the Lebanese Army refrained from returning fire for 6 days. All kept silent over the issue of cease-fire.

When we began to reply, even in a limited manner, the appeals to cease fire were renewed. Why do they not, for instance, appeal to Syria to cease fire? This is what I blame all for because thus far they fear to give things their correct name and sometimes they get involved in details, forgetting the essence.

[Nawfal] The United States yesterday referred to the internal and external parties to the conflict.

['Awn] This statement indicates an understanding of the subject, but it is not yet sufficient for condemnation. A distinction should be made between the Lebanese Army, which is on its territory, and the Syrian occupation army which is firing at the cities. The Lebanese Army is defending itself against military positions and the Syrian Army is shelling the peaceful areas. It has burned down the city of Beirut and shelled the fuel reservoirs. Their explosion, with which you are acquainted, equalled that of a 1,000-tonne atomic bomb. These were the 1,000 tonnes which burned East Beirut. There was no Arab or international condemnation of this action. We condemn this disregard because this crime cannot pass without condemnation. The one who refrains from condemning this must be an accomplice to the crime.

[Nawfal] Nevertheless, Mr Prime Minister, the Arab good offices committee is on its way to Damascus and then to Beirut. We know that the committee's mission and circumstances are very difficult. But, considering what you learned about its chairman and members, do you expect this committee to reach a certain result?

['Awn] For my part, I can express my intentions. My intention is to facilitate the committee's work to the maximum and to place all my abilities at its disposal for the sake of bringing about the success of its mission for the welfare of Lebanon and the Arabs. However, I do not know the Syrians' intentions and what they harbor. But what has thus far been revealed about these intentions is not at all encouraging. They impose names, the venue of talks, and proposals. They make people say what they want. Therefore, I cannot imagine success for the committee as a result of what Syria is doing. If anyone dared to say the opposite, his destiny will be like ours. He will be shelled with bombs and the city and people will be destroyed.

[Nawfal] Do you expect the committee to move from Damascus to Beirut?

['Awn] If the Syrians create a secure atmosphere for it. But I can say that the Syrians do not want the committee to come to Beirut. Therefore, they say it is not safe and that it is impossible for it to reach Beirut. As a result, the committee does not consider such a trip.

[Nawfal] Mr Prime Minister, following the setting up of the six-member committee, everyone was optimistic about an Arab solution. Do you believe that such an Arab solution is still possible or is it necessary to internationalize the Lebanese crisis?

['Awn] All the initiatives on Lebanon should be frank and courageous in order to succeed. We cannot tell the terrorist that he is tolerant and has good manners. We cannot tell the Syrian gun that it is a source of security in Lebanon and will enable us to solve the problem. We should bravely confront the Syrians in Lebanon and tell them that what they are doing there is unacceptable and that they should leave Lebanon to enable the Lebanese to hold dialogue in a free atmosphere. As long as the Syrian gun is aimed at the Lebanese and the courageous among the Muslims are leaving, dying in Beirut, or being put in Damascus prisons, no accord can be achieved, because Syria, as we know, has graves and prisons but has no courts. It also does not respect human rights. There will never be a Syrian role in peace. Syria exercises terrorism against its people, neighbors, and the world. I wonder before the Arabs: How can they remain silent over the shelling of the Presidential Palace by the Syrian artillery for 21 days? At least, they should have prevented the shelling of this symbol. I am not talking about my life as a military man because I can avoid the Syrian shelling [words indistinct] this is a shameful act that is condemned by everybody.

[Nawfal] Mr Prime Minister, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas held contacts with the U.S., Soviet, and Kuwaiti foreign ministers on Lebanon. Today or tomorrow, Francois Deniau will leave for Lebanon. How do you view the French move?

['Awn] We should not forget that France is the closest European country to us. We maintain historic relations. It can understand our problem more than other European and non-European countries and that its efforts are always balanced. It also wants to create a suitable atmosphere for help in all areas. We thank them for their efforts and help to Lebanon. We wish them success because their success will save us from these tragedies, which we have experienced for 14 years.

[Nawfal] Mr Prime Minister, one of the criticisms levelled against you, if you permit me to say, is that you have taken unilateral measures pertaining to the ports and sought to carry out these measures, which affect other parties, in the absence of a prior political agreement—something which has ignited the fire. Had you attempted, before taking these measures, to negotiate with the other party, particularly Syria?

['Awn] Of course, regardless of my legal status in contrast to the legal status of the Al-Huss government, whose existence we do not recognize, as it is the expression of the will of the Syrian occupation troops, and not that of a Lebanese will, at least in terms of form and continuity; I do not view the enforcement and implementation of Lebanese laws in our territorial waters as a unilateral measure. The form of the law does not change when it is to be applied to all Lebanese parties. We have not adopted other laws so far. Hence, this legal measure irrefutably serves the interests of all. Besides, why should I negotiate with Syria on the enforcement of laws in our territorial waters?

Is it the state exercising custodianship on my decision-making? No. I have not so far recognized that it is the party which should exercise custodianship on my decisionmaking. Moreover, I demand that Syrian troops be evacuated from Lebanon, as Syria is an occupier. Furthermore, its presence has been illegal since 27 July 1982. This is the gist of a memorandum that we submitted to the Arab League before the convening of the meetings of the Council of Arab Ministers, which decided to form the six-member committee.

[Nawfal] You have been quoted as demanding that President al-Asad resign his post as Syrian president. Is this correct?

['Awn] The official news media in Damascus said: General 'Awn must leave Lebanon so that stability can be restored. One journalist posed the following question to me: The Syrians are saying this and that. Then, I told him: Let President Hafiz al-Asad leave Syria; and then the Middle East, Lebanon, and particularly Syria will be at ease, as we will not accept that any Lebanese official might be undermined by any Syrian official. To accept humiliation is not the rule. If the Syrians seek to see their president's dignity safeguarded in Lebanon, they must safeguard the dignity of others. We, I, have not slandered anybody. They initiated the slander.

Whenever an issue surfaces or a small or big incident takes place in Lebanon, they say: this Zionized person, this person who deals with Zionism, and this person who deals with colonialism. The Syrian and non-Syrian must understand this language. Now, it is forbidden to assail Lebanese officials. Hence, they must have calculated 20 years ago that one person might come one day and fearlessly expose their realities under their very noses. If they have terrified the world with their own terrorism, there is a small general, as Al-Shar' put it, who is not scared of the terrorism of Al-Asad, the terrorism of Al-Shar', the terrorism of Khaddam, and the terrorism of all the cliques surrounding them.

[Nawfal] Mr Prime Minister, after putting things in order, do you believe that the restoration of a dialogue with Damascus, away from violence and intransigent stands, would be possible, especially with regard to the Syrian presence in Lebanon?

['Awn] Do not forget that I am a professional soldier. The soldier can fight his enemy. After the cease-fire, he can negotiate peace. Irrespective of the fierceness of the war and regardless of the intransigence of stands, these traits would enable me to negotiate with anybody whoever he might be.

[Nawfal] Mr Prime Minister, some say that you have been hasty in demanding the Syrian troop withdrawal and that you have declared a liberation war on Syria without declaring war as openly on Israel, despite the fact that the international conference will be convened in the near future, that Lebanon has a basic role to play in it, and that the United States is demanding the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

['Awn] I believe that demanding the Syrian troop withdrawal has been 12 years late, as Syrian troops should not have entered Lebanon in the first place. I view this demand as 12 years late. As for making up the story of Israel to cover up for the Syrian troop presence, this is a pure Syrian fabrication in the first place; Israel occupied Lebanese territory only after Syrian troops entered Lebanon. Syria entered Lebanon in 1976; and southern Lebanon was occupied on 15 March 1978.

Hence, the story of confronting Israel and counterbalancing Israel is a manifestation of lopsided logic. Israel entered Lebanon to counterbalance the Syrian presence, I believe, and not the contrary—that Syria came to confront Israel. It must also be said that the only obstacle preventing us from heading to southern Lebanon is the Syrian presence. The forces allied to Syria are the ones which are preventing the arrival of the Lebanese Army in Israel. Otherwise, there would have been no problem, as the confrontation between us and Israel would have taken place a long time ago if our routes to southern Lebanon had been open.

[Nawfal] Who, do you think, is involved in the fighting in Lebanon and who is not?

['Awn] The Lebanese Army is fighting Syria in Lebanon and Syria is fighting the Lebanese Army. Why is Syria fighting the Lebenese Army and not any other force? It is because the Lebanese Army generally represents sovereignty and independence on all the Lebanese soil. Syria wants to get rid of this force because it is the only force asking Syria to withdraw from Lebanon. Syria is not annoyed by the militias. It can influence them each on its spot, and turn their areas into several governorates linked to Damascus. The Lebanese Army, however, is the only party that enjoys Lebanese comprehensiveness and that was not involved in the civil war. Syria wants to undermine the Lebanese Army because it is the only force that is demanding Syria's departure from Lebanon.

[Nawfal] What is the nature of your government's relations with Iraq? Can they be described as strategic, or are they passing relations?

['Awn] Neither strategic nor passing. Iraq is a fraternal country, as fraternal as Syria and perhaps a little bit more. We have nothing to prevent the establishment of good relations with all the Arab countries as Lebanon belongs to the Arab League. They are regarding our relationship with Iraq as if it were a shameful charge and a plot against Syria. No. Iraq is a fraternal country that wants to help us restore our national unity and the unity of our land and sovereignty over it.

Our relations with Iraq are not strategic in the military sense of the word, but in its political Arab sense, if you like. Establishing good relations between Arab countries is a natural thing. Understood in this context, the relations are strategic. Iraq is helping us restore our identity, and we thank it for this. We hope that fraternal Syria will adopt a similar stand and say that it only wants Lebanon's national unity and its restoration of its identity so that it can support Syria in hard times.

[Nawfal] What kind of assistance does Iraq provide you?

['Awn] Iraq is offering all necessary assistance—economic, political, and even military, through equipment; not, of course, men. The human effort is ours.

[Nawfal] It seems, Prime Minister, that the other side has a solution to the Lebanese crisis. Prime Minister Salim al-Huss proposed the resignation of the two governments as an introduction to a settlement, with this to be followed by the election of a president and the declaration of reforms. If you do not agree to this solution, what is the alternative?

['Awn] This proposal is Syrian in identity. The problem today is with Syria, which wants to return the ball to the Lebanese court so that people may be misled into thinking that the problem is purely Lebanese. While we are confronting Syria on Lebanese land, Dr al-Huss makes himself a facade for the Syrians and says that the problem is with me. No, the problem is neither with him nor with me. The problem has existed for 14 years with the forces of the Syrian occupation. These maneuvers, therefore, can mislead no one. We hope that from now on he will not propose inapplicable plans that cover up the role of occupation.

[Nawfal] What is your opinion of Dr al-Huss as a statesman?

['Awn] He is a very nice gentleman, but I think that the strategic things that pass through and around him are not within his field .

[Nawfal] Damascus says that you have ambition in authority. Political ambition in a democracy is a legitimate right. But in order to help solve the crisis, can we imagine that you are ready to compete with other candidates within the democratic game?

['Awn] The issue of Presidency is not a subject for discussion between Damascus and me. The Syrian officials know this. They have repeatedly offered me the Presidency project but I refused to discuss the subject. There is only one debatable issue between Damascus and me—namely, the liberation of Lebanon. I am not personally interested in the Presidency, and I did not discuss it either with Damascus, the United States, Europe, the deputies, or with the journalists. I am not a candidate for the Presidency. However, if at the end [words indistinct] there is a Presidency term, I will discuss it with the Lebanese, not the Syrians.

[Nawfal] Mr Prime Minister, what do you think of Raymond Iddih, who supports your stands?

['Awn] He is known for his integrity and frankness. I admire his political school, which does not concede principles and has no concern for personal interests. One should always pass himself and his interests when it comes to national issues. I admire him in this respect.

[Nawfal] Mr Prime Minister, you enjoy popular support at least in the eastern areas, and your Army has displayed good combat capability. But this does not prevent the continuation of shelling and destruction of vital utilities. Consequently, the citizen has the right to ask, where are you leading Lebanon, Mr Prime Minister?

['Awn] There is something I want to tell you. I would like to stress to you that the Army in the eastern areas enjoys popular support. Thirty percent of this Army, which is fighting despite all difficulties and despite all the obstacles and roadblocks set up on streets leading to villages, are Muslims. It is not a Christian Army as some depict it. A second point is that before stating that my popularity in the western area does not exist, I hope there is some sort of referendum or an opinion poll in the Islamic areas under an Arab or Arab-international supervision—whatever you choose—in order to see if the people are with the aims I have defined or not.

I believe that the world will be surprised to know that more than the overwhelming majority—and we will not say 99.9 percent because this is one of the lies we hear everyday—of 80 percent of the Lebanese people, Christians and Muslims, are for liberation, for the Syrian and foreign forces' withdrawal from Lebanon, and for the liberation of the South. Nobody is against these aims. Nobody should bargain over political reforms. We are pioneers of reform. We seek reform at a round table. We seek to remove every injustice, fear, and deprivation. These are axioms with which nobody is allowed to trade. But which dialogue do they want from us under the Syrian guns? I am leading the country toward a free dialogue among the Lebanese after the withdrawal of the Syrian guns which have terrorized Lebanon for 14 years. This is my leadership and this is my aim.

[Nawfal] Mr Prime Minister, do you support the idea of electing a president of the Republic and carrying out reforms simultaneously?

['Awn] The idea of simultaneity is a Syrian novelty. There is simultaneity between reform and stability within the Lebanese structure. The idea of simultaneity is some sort of standing on the starting line in a race where each wants to cheat the other and start before him. This does not lead to stability in the homeland. There should be a commitment to reforms that should be implemented by means of internal understanding through the constitutional institutions. It is a crime to link reforms to the removal of occupation. Reforms should coincide with stability in the homeland, and not with anything else under the name of elections or occupation. Occupation is rejected regardless of the de facto situation within the Lebanese society. It should not be linked even with elections but all should abide by it because it is a natural law for social and political development.

[Nawfal] If you get an Arab guarantee of a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, will you cease fire?

['Awn] I must clarify matters to you. I have not opened fire. Although there are international resolutions that force the Syrians and others to pull out of Lebanon and although I am entitled to legitimately open fire on any foreign soldier on my land, I did not open fire. It was the Syrian soldier who opened fire. I also observed a cease-fire when the six-member Arab committee called on us to do so, but the Syrians did not observe it for 6 days. When the shelling intensified and heavy losses were inflicted on the people, and in order to raise the people's morale, I returned fire in an attempt to protect the Army positions and the people's morale. Now when the Syrian shelling stops our fire also stops. We fire only in reply to their fire.

[Nawfal] How can you briefly describe the present military situation?

['Awn] It is static. There is much destruction with heavy weapons that are being used to destroy cities. We have highlighted this to the news media available to us. There is 240-mm mortar shelling. This is a Soviet weapon used to destroy cities. There is also a 180-mm weapon, which is also used to destroy cities. They are shelling us with them. [words indistinct] They even shelled the Presidential Palace with 160-mm weapons, which are demolition weapons. It is then a party of demolition and killing, if we can say so, and not a military expedition because the Syrian Army has thus far not dared to confront the Lebanese Army in any position. We hope the battle will be decisive between us and them. But I do not wish one thing. We do not wish them to continue to shell civilians. I hope the Arab world in particular and the whole world in general will make Syria abide by the international war agreements and not stop firing. We no longer want a cease-fire, but request the world to make Syria only respect the law of war.

[Nawfal] Does this situation on the ground, as it is now and as you have depicted to us, make you optimistic or pessimistic?

['Awn] I am optimistic as long as I am alive and struggling for the freedom of my homeland and people. If I die, and I will not die, I will not be that sensitive to know what will happen. But there is an inevitable historical fact which says no liberation war has ever been lost. Therefore victory will be ours and defeat will be Syria's lot.

[Nawfal] You say if you die. There are also those who come after you. What will they do? There are others beside Gen 'Awn.

['Awn] The delivery of the message is guaranteed because this is in the hand of God only. None will vanquish me militarily, but life is in God's hand. However, there are those who will carry on the message. Therefore, the liberation war will triumph, while the occupier will be defeated.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister.

['Awn] May God protect you.

Christians Not To Meet With Arab Committee

NC0404181489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, head of the Arab ministerial committee, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi have headed for Damascus to meet with senior Syrian officials as well as a delegation from pro-Syrian Lebanese organizations and parties. Sources close to the Lebanese Front have stated that contacts are continuing among the front members to decide upon the invitation for a meeting with the Arab League committee members outside Lebanon.

We have just been informed that during its extraordinary meeting held this evening, the Lebanese Front has decided not to go anywhere outside Lebanon for a meeting with the Arab League committee.

Al-Khatib Army Command Issues Statement

NC0404172989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Army Command of Sami al-Khatib in Beirut has emphasized that its primary and most pressing issue is to confront the Israeli enemy and liberate the land from the Israeli occupation. In a statement issued today, the Army Command considers itself the chief party to any talks to end the fighting and resolve the issue of the ports, utilities, and crossing points. The statement reminds the Army Command in Al-Yarzah that the old equations, which are still being used by this command, have been changed.

The statement goes on to say that the Army Command in Beirut has, since its assumption of powers on 9 November 1988, taken upon itself to be primarily involved in the nationalist plan which calls for change and liberation. It has since then relentlessly endeavored to rebuild, guide, and arm its forces to offset the deprivation these forces had suffered for so long.

The statement adds: Now that these forces possess the military arm which is capable of carrying out what they believe in and of performing their commitments, they will no longer accept anything other than being the spearhead in any political or military step in service of their plan. We say this only when it has become clear to us that the engineers of the suicide military scheme led by General 'Awn persist in misleading the world, local, and regional public. They are ignoring the political and military condition in Lebanon as well as the nationalist forces, including the Army. They are also trying to involve regional forces and to drag them to the arena of struggle in service of their plan and in implementation of narrow personal interests. [passage omitted]

The Army Command in Beirut wishes to remind the public of its following stands, which are based on its nationalist convictions and responsibilities:

One, our primary and most important issue is to confront the Israeli enemy and liberate the land from its occupation. We believe that we have the leading nationalist role in defending the citizens and institutions and in providing a suitable security atmosphere conducive to starting a constructive inter-Lebanese dialogue and safeguarding any accord that the Lebanese might achieve;

Two, we consider ourselves the chief party to any talks to end the fighting in Lebanon. We believe that the other side's attempt to drag Syria into reaching a cease-fire is only a distortion of facts which does not concern us, even if this cease-fire has been attained; and

Three, we consider ourselves the chief party to any talks to resolve the issue of the ports, crossing points, and blockades, because we consider ourselves the only force legally qualified to abide by and implement any agreement. [passage omitted]

2 Israelis Allegedly Killed; Amal Halts Force

NC0404172689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The Amal Movement has declared that one of its groups checked an Israeli force which tried to advance toward the Qa'qaiyat al-Jisr road at 1330 today. The Israeli force was compelled to retreat. Amal sources said that another group bombarded Al-Shumariyah and 'Alman, killing two Israelis and injuring two others.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus 4 Apr

JN0404204089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the directors of the Arab Homeland Department and Protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Zuhayr 'Aqil, general commissioner of the Offices of the Arab Boycott of Israel; and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff in Damascus.

Received by Al-Shar'

JN0404213589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir [al-Sabah], Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and head of the Arab Ministerial Committee on Lebanon, and Mr Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and, on the Kuwaiti side, by Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus. The talks dealt with the activities of the six-man Arab Committee and the current developments in Lebanon.

In a statement upon arrival in Damascus this evening, the Kuwaiti foreign minister expressed pleasure for visiting Syria and said that the visit comes within the framework of consultations with brothers in Syria on issues related to the tragic situation in Lebanon. The visit, he added, is also a completion of past stages, and meetings with a number of brother politicians and nationalist forces in Lebanon will be held. He said the six-man Arab Committee has a certain view of the Lebanese problem, but this view will not be finalized until after tomorrow's expected meeting in Damascus with the brothers in the Lebanese nationalist forces.

Shaykh al-Jabir appealed to all parties to the conflict in Lebanon to listen to the voice of reason and immediately cease fire. He said: From the land of Syria, I appeal to all parties to stop these tragedies. Those killed are our sons, daughters, and brothers. Therefore, in the name of the Arab nation and humanity, we appeal to them to stop fighting immediately. When this is achieved, solutions will be ready for all our Lebanese brothers.

Shaykh al-Jabir was asked about his views on the outcome of the committee's activities. He said: Our view is to achieve reforms in Lebanon. What is regrettable, however, is that the committee is not given the opportunity to present its views due to the recent fighting in Lebanon, which ceased the committee's activities. Therefore, I once again appeal from Damascus to all parties in Lebanon to cease fire so that the Arab Committee can put its views in front of the Lebanese.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' gave a statement to Kuwaiti television and to journalists at Damascus airport. He said: Syria blessed and supported the endeavor of the Arab Ministerial Committee chaired by brother Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir. It will continue to do so hoping that the committee will achieve results satisfactory to all the Lebanese. Al-shar' added: As far as we are concerned, we will provide every possible assistance, as we did in the past, to render the committee's big task a success.

Mr al-Shar' held a dinner banquet in honor of Shaykh al-Jabir and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. The banquet was attended by Abdellatif Filali, Kingdom of Morocco minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, a number of ministers, assistants of the foreign minister, a number of Foreign Ministry staff, and heads of Arab diplomatic missions accredited to Damascus.

Received by Vice President

JN0504101289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and chairman of the Arab Ministerial Committee on Lebanon; and Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, at 0930 today. The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim. The talks centered on the situation in the Lebanese arena, ways to deal with the Lebanese crisis, and the mission of the Arab Ministerial Committee in Lebanon.

Morocco's Filali To Deliver King's Message

LD0304003989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Abdellatif Filali, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived this evening in Damascus on an official visit at the invitation of his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'.

Mr Abdellatif Falali made a statement on his arrival in Damascus airport in which he said that during this visit he is to hand a message to the Syrian president from his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II. He pointed out that this visit is an opportunity to continue the dialogue between the two sides in connection with the Arab issues and bilateral cooperation.

The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation stressed that solidarity and dialogue between the two countries had started a long time ago and had not ceased, proof of this being the Moroccan Army's presence on Syrian soil during the October [1973] war in order to defend Arab land and dignity.

He stressed Morocco's confidence that the solidarity and cooperation between the two countries will have to be consolidated in the future, and that his visit to Damascus is considered as an opportunity to strengthen and consolidate bilateral relations and open new horizons for Moroccan-Syrian solidarity.

Received by Khaddam

JN0404204489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and his delegation at 1930 today. The talks centered on the Aarb situation, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral relations.

Departs After Visit

JN0504101689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Abellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Damascus this morning after a 4-day visit to the country. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

In a statement, Filali praised the outcome of this visit, which provided an opportunity to hold talks on bilateral relations, the future of the Arab homeland, and the Palestine question. He added: I was honored by a meeting with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to convey to him a personal message from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II.

Sudanese State Council Member Arrives for Visit

JN0204130689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Damascus — Sudanese State Council Member Mirghani al-Nasri arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to Syria. Heading those welcoming him at Damascus International Airport were Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; a number of ministers; Sudanese charge d'affaires, and embassy staff in Damascus. Upon arrival, Al-Nasri made a statement to a journalist in which he said:

[Begin Al-Nasri recording] [Passage omitted] It is not strange that we come to Damascus because this is a natural issue, since we are a part of the Arab nation, our struggle is a part of its struggle, and our culture and heritage are a part of its heritage. Therefore, it was natural that we come here to exchange the struggle experiences and experiences in all other fields. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam also made a statement to the journalists in which he said:

[Passage omitted] [Begin Khaddam recording] Sudan today is one of the most important countries in the Arab world. We should support Sudan in all the difficulties or foreign conspiracies which target its unity and Arab identity. I repeat that Syria was, and will always be, with fraternal Sudan, with its revolution, and with its leadership which came about as a result of its people's clear choice after the revolution which erupted against Numayri's defunct regime.

I wish to repeat that Syria will remain as it was: supportive of our brothers in Sudan since they are an essential cornerstone in the Arab homeland. We should work toward supporting, preserving, and strengtheninng this cornerstone because any weakness in it will reflect on the Arab nation. We will hold talks with Brother Mirghani dealing with all issues of mutual interest and all that interests the Arab nation, Sudan, and Syria. I repeat my warm welcomes to him, the brother education minister and the rest of the accompanying delegation members. [end recording]

An official delegation accompanies Al-Nasri which includes a number of Sudanese officials.

Received by Khaddam

JN0204183589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council in fraternal Sudan, and the delegation accompanying him at 1800 today. The delegation comprises Education Minister Shaykh Mahjub Ja'far; Staff Major General Amin Abu Shawq, director of the Military Academy; and Salih 'Abbud, assistant director of the Arab Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry. 'Abd al-Baqi Muhammad Hasan, Sudanese charge d'affairs in Damascus, attended.

The meeting dealt with the Arab situation in general and the threats facing the Arab nation, whether in Lebanon, the Sudan, or Palestine. They also discussed bilateral relations.

Received by Al-Asad

JN0304172489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad received Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council in the Republic of Sudan, and the accompanying delegation at 1200 today. The delegation comprises Al-Shaykh Mahjub Ja'far, education minister, and Staff Major General Amin Abu Shawq, director of the Sudanese Military Academy.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Damascus. Talks dealt with situation in the region, developments in sisterly Sudan, and the situation in the Arab arena.

Departs After 3-Day Visit

JN0404124389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the Sudanese State Council, left Damascus this morning following a 3-day visit to the country. Heading those bidding him farewell at Damascus International Airport was Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Also seeing him off were Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs, ministers, and the Sudanese chief of staff and embassy officials.

Official Statement Issued

JN0504092789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Apr 89

["Text" of official statement on visit by Sudanese State Council member Mirghani al-Nasri, issued in Damascus and Khartoum—date not given]

[Text] Damascus/Khartoum—Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the State Council in the Republic of Sudan, paid a cordial visit to the Syrian Arab Republic [SAR] during the period from 2-4 April 1989, at the head of a delegation that included Al-Shaykh Mahjub Ja'far, higher education and scientific research minister; Staff Major General Amin Abu Shawk, director of the Higher Military Academy in Sudan; and Salih 'Abdu Mashamun, acting director of the Arab Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry.

His excellency and the delegation accompanying him were accorded a warm reception that reflected the fraternal ties between the two countries. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and a number of ministers headed those who received him.

During the visit, Mirghani al-Nasri was received by SAR President Hafiz al-Asad and conveyed to him the greetings of the chairman and members of the Sudanese State Council and the prime minister. The talks dealt with the current Arab situation and relations between the two fraternal countries. The president stressed to the guest Syria's concern about promoting these relations and supporting fraternal Sudan against the dangers facing it. Sudanese State Council Member Mirghani al-Nasri extended an invitation on behalf of the State Council to President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Sudan. The president accepted the invitation with thanks. The date of the visit will be set later through diplomatic channels. State Council Member Mirghani al-Nasri also held talks with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The talks were permeated by a high fraternal spirit and mutual confidence. The talks dealt with developments of the situation in fraternal Sudan, the Arab situation, bilateral relations, and the existing ties between the peoples in the two fraternal countries.

During the talks, the Sudanese side reviewed recent political developments in Sudan and stressed the firmness and soundness of the democratic march in it. It also explained the efforts by the Sudanese leadership to reach a peaceful solution to the southern Sudan problem. The Syrian side stressed its support for fraternal Sudan in the face of all threats and challenges facing Sudan. It also praised the democratic experiment currently being experienced by fraternal Sudan. The two sides reviewed the Arab situation in general in light of the recent developments in the Arab arena. They agreed on the importance of bolstering Arab solidarity and of defining the bases of this solidarity to mobilize efforts and resources to confront the enemies of the Arab nation, mainly the Israeli enemy.

The Sudanese side expressed appreciation of Syria's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist-Zionist plans to liquidate the Palestine question and achieve the aggressive Zionist ambitions.

Regarding the Lebanese situation, the two sides' agreed on supporting Lebanon's independence and unity and on achieving national accord among the Lebanese in a manner that would lead to the removal of the causes that have ignited the civil war since 1975, and to the achievement of equality among the Lebanese in rights and duties, end sectarian splits and fragmentation, and safeguard Lebanon's Arab affiliation.

The two sides also discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and expressed their satisfaction with the level they have reached. They discussed the means of promoting these relations and expanding them in all fields. At the end of the talks, the Sudanese side expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the Syrian side on the warm reception, hospitality, and sincere fraternal feelings accorded to the Sudanese delegation during the visit.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Tribal Meeting 4 April
LD0404222889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Speech by President Najibullah at a tribal assembly of elders from Qandahar, Nangarhar, Zabol, Helmand, Laghman, Paktia, and Nuristan on 4 April in Kabul—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] There was the excuse of the Soviets; we expelled the Soviets from here. Now they [mujahidin] say they want power [words indistinct]. Come, we will settle this issue as well. First of all, we will declare a cease-fire, then we will set up a joint council. We will form a coalition government, which will draft a constitution. On the basis of this constitution we will hold elections. They claim they control 98 percent of the land. But should those who hold 98 percent of the land have convened their first cabinet session in a cave? [passage omitted]

Another question is why the United States was backing them. You can see that the United States is not supporting them to safeguard our religion, but to destroy our religion. Another subtle aspect is that, actually, if you do not accept the government in this form, then there is a verse from the Koran which says: Dignity and misery come from me, and good is also in my hand, and I am capable of everything. I say, let us have elections. If God wanted, you would win the elections, because dignity come from Him. If God wants me or someone else, then he will win. If I win this position, it comes from Him. They do not accept religious tenets. The one they listen to is the United States because it gives them arms. Why does it give them arms? I repeat my previous statement: It is because they grow poppies in their areas. [passage omitted]

I conclude that our society has two systems: One is Islamic, and the other is a national, historic, and national system—an Afghan system. Both of them have faced danger. You accept that the jihad is against atheism. Now there are conspiracies against our national pride. The Pakistani president says he wants a confederation with Afghanistan; this view has been suggested by Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar] as well. Now there is another proof, provided they do not change it after hearing my statement—that will be another issue. However, they have already made a flag. War was not permitted against the British. But we will have to live under the white and green flag [colors of the Pakistani flag].

These were the issues that I wanted to talk to you about; that is, whether or not you want to accept confederation with Pakistan and live under its flag. Have you shed your blood for this purpose? The second issue is that we should rise up against atheism, Wahhabism, and Ahmadism and see through this national and Islamic jihad. I have asked you to come here to settle this issue. Please settle this issue so that we can safeguard our historic Afghanistan—which has a 5,000 year-old history—with our heads held high. We have thrown out many invaders. Now we will never accept Punjabism; we will never accept its flag. We will never accept the shadow of Wahhabism and Ahmadism over us. If you accept this, then tell me and I will say farewell, for I cannot take responsibility for this in the pages of history.

Tribal Representatives Support Najibullah
LD0504072489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul April 4, BAKHTAR—Adequate information on the repeated and continuing interventions of the Pakistani militarymen in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and its violations of the Geneva accords was provided by Haji Muhammad Samkanai, chairman of the Higher Council for the Tribal Affairs Office of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] in the session of the said council held here on Monday.

Samkanai said to the participants in the session that so far more than 3,300 instances of the Pakistani violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords were recorded and conveyed through 344 notices to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

At the end of the session the tribal representatives in their speeches in the session pledged to Najibullah, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the RA that they will support decisions and constructive initiatives of their national leader for a nation-wide peace as well as defend territorial integrity of the country and to deter foreign interventions in the sacred Afghan soil at all cost.

Wolasi Jergah Approves Appointment of Shah Wali
LD0404194889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] A general session of the Wolasi Jergah was held today under its chairman, Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi. In accordance with the agenda, the appointment of Dr Shah Wali as minister counsellor of the Afghan Council of Ministers was discussed. His appointment was announced in a decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. The session unanimously approved the appointment.

Hikmatyar Criticizes U.S. on Recognition, Envoy
LD0404092789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 4 (KUNA)—Foreign Minister of the Afghan mujahidin Government Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has implicitly criticized the United States for failing to recognize the mujahidin government which he said will soon win recognition of many Islamic and Asian countries.

Hikmatyar, in an interview published here Tuesday in AL-MUJTAMA' weekly magazine, said he personally opposes Washington's attempt to designate a special envoy to the mujahidin government. "If America declared its recognition of the mujahidin government, we would accept an ambassador from America but not a special envoy," he said.

He believed Washington, by seeking to appoint an envoy with the mujahidin government, was in effect bowing to pressures at home and from allies.

He indicated that it was contradictory that the U.S. is still reluctant to recognize the mujahidin "at a time when it claims it supports the mujahidin and provides them with assistance."

The U.S. and Pakistan have been the Afghan mujahidin's staunchest supporters in their eight years of war against the Soviet-backed army of the Kabul government.

The mujahidin's foreign minister admitted that the issue of an American envoy had not yet been discussed by the mujahidin government but said he believed the other ministers would back his opposition to the idea.

The Pakistan-based interim mujahidin government was set up last month following the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in mid-February.

Its major political victory since then was winning a seat at the 45-state Organization of Islamic Conference when the Islamic group recognized the mujahidin government in a ministerial meeting in Saudi Arabia last month.

Hikmatyar, meanwhile, denied press reports that he was injured in recent battle control of the city of Jalalabad. He told AL-MUJTAMA' weekly, the international media had exaggerated the magnitude and importance of the fighting between the mujahidin and the Afghan Army around Jalalabad and stressed that the city would fall to the mujahidin sooner or later.

The mujahidin were closing in on the city slowly but steadily, according to Himkatytar, who, however, made it a point to stress that Jalalabad has no special significance over other Afghan cities. Attacks on other cities are now being delayed only by thick snow, he added.

Doctor Says Kabul Regime Using Chemical Weapons

BK0504082589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] There are reports of use of chemical weapons by the Kabul regime troops against the mujahidin in Afghanistan. A doctor working for a West German organization, named (?German) Aid For Afghan Refugees, said he has treated four persons injured by the chemical weapons. He said a low-flying jet dropped a bomb near Jalalabad, which emitted thick white smoke. The doctor added those affected by the smoke lost eyesight, started vomiting, and their muscles stiffened.

Meanwhile, the intensity of the fighting near Jalalabad is reported to be on the highway which links the city with Kabul.

Government To Try Pakistani 'Spies' 5 Apr

BK0404163889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1634 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 4 (AFP)—Two Pakistani citizens arrested earlier this year for spying in the eastern Afghan Province of Qandahar will be brought to trial here Wednesday [5 April], a government spokesman said.

The spokesman said that the two, identified as Corporal Mohammad Ashraf, 25, and Mohammad Afzul, 26, also a corporal, would stand trial on charges of espionage before a special tribunal held in the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The two spoke to foreign reporters here last month, and both said they had been unarmed at the time of their capture. Both have been interviewed in private by the U.N. Good Offices Mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Soviet-backed government here charges that Pakistani intelligence is running the battle of Jalalabad, which began 18 days after the Soviet troop withdrawal was completed on February 15.

However, despite accusations that Pakistani militia have taken part in the battle, no Pakistani prisoners have been produced by the government as evidence from Nangarhar Province. Qandahar Province is south of Nangarhar, of which Jalalabad is the provincial capital.

Perpetrators of Kabul Explosion Captured

LD0304205589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 apr 89

[Text] Elements associated with Mojadeddi, head of the Rawalpindi-made government, who wanted to demonstrate their opposition to the peace and tranquillity of our compatriots and caused much material loss have been captured. The BAKHTAR military section reports the criminal element placed a large amount of explosives on the third floor of the Muhib 'Ali apartment block close to the Pamir Cinema in the center of Kabul which exploded at 0100 on 29 March. As a result of this inhuman act of the criminals, six clinics and laboratories where sick people were being examined and treated were totally destroyed, and 13 clinics and laboratories were partially damaged.

As a result of the explosion, which fortunately caused no loss of life, a large amount of lab medical equipment was destroyed. Organs of state security, which defend the peace and tranquillity of our people and make efforts day and night to capture criminals and place them in the hands of the law, succeeded with the assistance of our peace-loving people in capturing the perpetrators of the incident and turning them over to the law authorities. The confessions of these traitors will later be published through the mass media.

20,000 Prisoners Reportedly Tortured in Kabul

LD0304181889 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 3, IRNA—Around 20,000 Muslim prisoners including old men, women and youth are under severe torture at Kabul's notorious 'Pol-e Charkhi' prison, the second largest in the world.

A commander of the Harakat-e Eslami (Islamic Movement) of Afghanistan disclosed today that the Marxist regime has bugged all telephones and imposed strict security around houses in the capital in collaboration with Soviet advisors.

"A total of 350 Kabul citizens have been arrested and sent to Pol-e Charkhi prison following the state of emergency declared after the Soviet troops' withdrawal," the commander said.

The Kabul regime uses the most sophisticated arms including Scud and S.S. missiles, and has virtually turned the capital into a military camp deploying tanks and heavy weaponry in the streets, he said.

Despite the regime's desparate measures, the commander revealed, 200 Afghan soldiers and officers have joined mujahidin over the past two weeks. "Although fuel and food are scarce and expensive in the capital, 95 percent of the people are in contact with mujahidin in some way or another," he said.

Mujahidin Rocket Kabul; 'At Least' 5 Dead

BK0404163489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1630 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 4 (AFP)—Mujahidin gunners fired at least six rockets into residential areas of Kabul on Tuesday, government sources said, with casualties estimated at one hospital as at least five dead and 25 wounded.

The rockets, the first to hit the capital in at least two weeks, landed in a crowded bus station and destroyed five houses in different areas of the city, government officials said.

Doctors told a photographer who visited a civilian hospital in northern Kabul Tuesday that at least five people had been killed and 25 wounded in the rocket attacks. The photographer said he saw seven seriously injured and one dead brought in from the Kheyr Khaneh area of Kabul, suggesting that mujahidin firing from the mountains had tried to hit the airport and overshot it. Three of the injured were young children, he said.

One government official said "there are many dead and wounded, especially in the bus station." Further details of the shelling were not immediately available. Kabul has experienced two weeks of relative calm compared with early March, when rockets hit the city's airport almost daily.

Meanwhile, journalists at the northern edge of the city said that a convoy of more than 200 trucks apparently laden with food and military equipment had arrived in Kabul down the Salang highway from the Soviet frontier.

The journalists said some 25 helicopters provided a continuous escort for the trucks over the last stretch of road, some 10 kilometers (six miles) outside the city limits, where mujahidin have been attacking convoys over the past weeks. The helicopters flew low along both sides of the road, they said.

Elsewhwere, a government spokesman said a military convoy had managed to reach the besieged eastern city of Jalalabad Monday afternoon without incident. The spokesman denied reports that the road had been cut by landslides caused by the mujahidin attempting to prevent government supplies from reaching the city, which has been under siege since March 5. Mujahidin shelling of Jalalabad in the past few hours had been much lighter than usual, killing two civilians and a soldier, he said.

The sporadic shelling was viewed by authorities here as a probable "calm before the storm," presaging a second offensive on the city by a force of about 12,000 mujahidin, the spokesman said. Rocketing was also reported on the city of Meymaneh in the Soviet border province of Faryab, the spokesman said. The shelling attacks between March 30 and April 1 had left three people dead and 31 injured, he said.

'Extremists' Launch 6 Missiles at Kabul

LD0404201489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Criminal extremists under the protection of Pakistan launched six surface-to-surface missiles this afternoon at Wards 4, 10, and 11 of Kabul city. Six of our compatriots were martyred and 24 others wounded. The BIA military section reports that the missiles hit a bus station at Kheyr Khaneh, Road No 4 of Charqala-e Wazirabad, Road No 1 of Qala-e Najaran, Road No 13 of (Taymani) and (Sarai Shamali). Three houses were slightly damaged. One missile hit a nonresidential area behind the (Badambagh) region which did not inflict any loss of life or property. The wounded victims, including women and children, were transferred to the hospital. Five of the wounded, who had slight injuries, were released from the hospital after receiving medical attention.

Explosives Discovered Near Kabul Nursery

LD0304174689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Criminal extremists, protected by Pakistan, attempted to cause an explosion at (Khoshal Mena) nursery, to soak the soil with the blood of a number of innocent children bringing sorrow to tens of families. The military section of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that these criminals placed 3 kg of [word indistinct] explosive near the nursery. However, the explosive substance was discovered in time by officials of the Campaign Against Crimes Department of Security Ward 5 of Kabul city. Local people cooperated in the discovery of the explosives.

Kabul-Sarowbi Highway Reopened After Flooding

LD0404234689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] As a result of continuous work and activities by the maintenance and supervisory personnel of the roads department of the Ministry of Construction and the work carried out by government workers and employees, the section of the Kabul-Sarowbi highway that was damaged by flooding caused by the recent rainfall was repaired and opened to traffic. A relevant source said the recent flood destroyed a section of the Kabul-Sarowbi highway in Mahi Par and Shpowl Baba. The repair work has now been completed and the highway is opened to traffic.

Army, Rebels Continue Battle for Jalalabad

'Voluntary Forces' Sent

BK0404023989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the Kabul regime has sent voluntary forces to Jalalabad, where the mujahidin are making preparations for another attack on the city. A spokesman of the Kabul regime's Foreign Ministry said voluntary units have been sent to Kabul, Laghman, and Herat. According to a report, thousands of civil servants have also been recruited into the Army.

Mujahidin sources say that in the continuing fierce fighting for control of Jalalabad, for the first time the Kabul regime is using a new type of warplane, which is faster than the MiG-21 and MiG-23 and is different from them. The mujahidin say they have damaged an important bridge on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway and have blocked the way to Jalalabad permanently.

A spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow has described the situation in Jalalabad as extremely serious.

Mujahidin Increase Pressure

BK0404153689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are continuously increasing pressure on the Kabul regime forces in Jalalabad and the airport area. The Kabul regime has said that another major attack is being launched on the besieged city of Jalalabad and the situation in the city and other besieged areas is very grave and tense. The fighting in Jalalabad is mostly taking place along the highway. The mujahidin have reportedly blown up another bridge on the highway near Sarowbi. The VOICE OF AMERICA says that relief supplies are being airlifted to Jalalabad by helicopter which are now finding it increasingly difficult to reach the city.

Military Operations Against Rebels Detailed

LD0404200489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In the past 24 hours extremists fired missiles at and used heavy weapons against Jalalabad city and its suburbs. An Armed Forces spokesman told the BIA military section that the Pakistani Army and groups linked to Pakistan shelled residential areas of Jalalabad city and security posts around it with BM-1 heavy weapons, mortars, and artillery from the directions of Samar Kheyl, Kameh, and (Sur Rod). As a result, two civilians, one of them a woman, were martyred and one person was wounded. During the incidents one Armed Forces member was martyred and two others were wounded. The report adds that units of the Pakistan Army's Divisions 11 and 18 and Pakistani artillery forces took an active part in shelling Jalalabad with heavy and long-range weapons.

The Afghan Armed Forces based in Nangarhar Province engaged in retaliatory actions against enemy shelling and foiled enemy attacks on all fronts, forcing them to retreat. As a result of artillery strikes and air bombardment by the Afghan Armed Forces on the enemies' trenches, gathering places, and strongholds, 85 enemy Army members were killed and 48 wounded. Pakistani and Saudi Arabian military advisers and a number of ringleaders of the extremists were among those killed. The report adds that during the past 24 hours, 3 enemy mortars, 2 weapons and ammunition caches, 2 BM-12 units, 1 recoilless gun, 5 trucks, 3 rocket launchers, and 21 light weapons were destroyed in Nangarhar Province.

According to a report, as a result of mopping up operations at Makwan village, Qandahar Province, 21 extremists linked to Pakistan were killed and 17 wounded. Two rocket missile units, three recoilles guns, and three DShK's were destroyed, and two trucks carrying weapons and ammunition were set on fire.

Another report said that during the launch of heavy weapons and surface-to-surface missiles by the extremists on Meymaneh city 29 March to 1 April, three people were killed and two schools were partially damaged. Also, as a result of Armed Forces strikes at the extremists' gathering places, 31 extremists were killed and 30 wounded. As a result of security forces' operations in Sar-e Pol, 30 extremists were killed and 3 were captured, along with 32 light weapons and 3,200 rounds of ammunition.

The military source states that as a result of an ambush by the security forces in the suburbs of Gozareh District, Herat Province, a ringleader of the Jami'at group, namely 'Abdul Zaher, was captured along with a Toyota car, a number of light weapons, one communications unit, and a number of propaganda leaflets.

According to another report, a joint attack by the Pakistani militarists and extremist groups, which began last evening in parts of Khowst Major District in the south, was neutralized by the Afghan Armed Forces. The report adds that the attackers, who were equipped with heavy and light weapons and attacked the security posts of (Omarakhan) village from the south intending, by eliminating these posts, to advance toward Khowst city, were faced with the retaliatory strikes of the country's Armed Forces that blocked the attack in a short time and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. During these strikes by the Armed Forces, 18 aggressors were crushed and dozens were severely wounded. Tens of enemy heavy and light weapons were destroyed in this operation. The report adds that after suffering heavy losses, the aggressors fled from the combat area.

India

Minister's Statement on Indira Gandhi Case

BK0404132289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The special investigation team [SIT] has unravelled a very big conspiracy, which was more than just an attempt, to kill the former prime minister. It will very shortly file a chargesheet in an appropriate court against some key persons involved in the conspiracy to kill Mrs Gandhi.

The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, said this while moving a motion for consideration the interim and final report along with appendices of the Thakkar Commission laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha on the 27th of last month. He commended the performance of the SIT. It has completed its job in a little over 4 years whereas the mystery of the killings of Lord Mountbatten, Olaf Palme and [John F.] Kennedy still remains to be resolved.

He regretted that when the SIT was about to file its report, news motivated by adventure journalism and political considerations started appearing in a section of the press. He said people behind this do not have the country's interest uppermost.

Further on Statement

BK0504035489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram, informed the Rajya Sabha that the Special Investigation Team—SIT—will file chargesheets in a day or two against certain persons involved in a larger conspiracy to kill the former prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi. He was replying to the discussion on the government motion for the consideration of the interim and final reports along with the appendices of the Thakkar Commission as laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha on the 27th of last month. He said the government hopes to share more information with the people, when chargesheets are filed. The minister cautioned the members that destabilization game will be played with greater vigor in the months to come.

He assured members that the government will function with full responsibility, restraint, and reserve and will never allow the evil forces to succeed in their nefarious designs. Mr Chidambaram said doubts have been raised as to who leaked the Thakkar Commission report. He said there were only limited copies of the report and one copy was with the then minister of state for internal security. He returned the copy to the prime minister with a note only in September 1986. He said it is unfortunate that those persons, who violate every law and oath of secrecy and bend every rule, want to grab power.

Earlier, participating in the discussion the ruling party members demanded proper investigation into the leakage of the report and exemplary punishment for those responsible for it. A ruling party member said Thakkar Commission violated its terms of reference and its report has no validity under the law. An opposition member said that most opposition parties and groups have not served the country's purpose and the parliamentary democracy by boycotting the debate on the report.

Opposition Motion on Thakkar Commission Defeated

BK0404132889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The Lok Sabha today rejected a motion for inviting the attorney general to the house to obtain his opinion on the Thakkar Commission Report: 185 members voted against the motion and 50 in favor of it. The motion was moved by Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI [Communist Party of India]. Opposition members argued that the attorney general should be invited to the house to clarify certain issues on the Thakkar Commission Report.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said that the matter has already been discussed in detail in the form of a privilege motion in the house. The speaker has given his ruling after obtaining the opinion of the attorney general. If the house again invites the attorney general, it will be upsetting the speaker's ruling, Mr Buta Singh said.

The Rajya Sabha chairman, Dr Shakar Dayal Sharma, today ruled that it is entirely up to the government to take appropriate action in accordance with the rules to lay or not to lay the papers related to the Thakkar Commission Report in the house. After listening to the views of the opposition and the ruling party members yesterday and today, the chairman observed that he is not in a position to direct the government to lay on the table these papers. He said the government on its own has placed a report of the commission on the table of the Rajya Sabha on the 27th of last month even though it was not obligatory on its part. By laying the report in the house, the government fulfills a convention in this regard.

Opposition Walks Out Over Gandhi's Remarks

BK0504082189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] The proceedings of the Lok Sabha were disrupted for nearly 15 minutes when opposition members took exception to the prime minister's remarks at a function in New Delhi yesterday. Soon after the question hour, almost the entire opposition were up on their feet and took strong exceptions stating that the prime minister had charged the opposition with siding with the killers of Mrs Indira Gandhi. There were shouts and countershouts from both the opposition and the ruling benches and much of what they said could not be heard in the din. The speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, told the members that if something unconstitutional has been done, then the house will take care of it. This did not satisfy the opposition and there were shouts and countershouts from both sides.

Later, almost the entire opposition walked out of the house protesting against yesterday's remarks by the prime minister.

Spokesman Denies Citizens Killed in Jalalabad

BK0404160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the people who were killed in the Jalalabad area of Afghanistan in the recent fighting were not Indian citizens, but Afghan nationals of Indian origin. He was clarifying press reports in this regard. He said in the artillery and rocket attack by rebels on a gurdwara [Sikh temple] in the old city of Jalalabad last week, 31 persons, including 3 children were killed; 100 persons were injured, 4 of them are in critical condition.

9 Policemen Injured in Kashmir Bombing 4 Apr

BK0404125189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, nine policemen were injured when a group of miscreants threw a bomb at a police party in Lal Chowk area in Srinagar today. DIG [Deputy Inspector General] police told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that the situation is now completely under control.

More on Kashmir Violence

BK0404163589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 2 persons were killed and several others, including 10 policemen, were injured when violent mobs clashed with the police today. Police opened fire to disperse stone-throwing mobs in Gaba Kadal, Red Cross Road, and Maisuma areas of Srinagar. Violent mobs indulged in stone pelting and looting. One more bomb exploded in a hotel, injuring three persons and causing damage to the building. Mobs also tried to set on fire an electric department office at Basantbagh area in Lal Chowk. They also hurled crude bombs and hand grenades on the police.

2 Wounded in Police Firing

BK0504090489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two persons were injured in Gaukadal and Maisuma area of Srinagar city this afternoon when police opened fire on a violent mob. The spokesman said the situation although tense, is still under control. Shops and business establishments are closed for the third day today. However, transport is plying normally and government offices and educational institutions are functioning.

'Miscreants' Injured in Police Encounter in Assam

BK0404091489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In Assam, at least 10 miscreants were injured in an encounter with the police in Kokrajhar District this morning, as the 10-day Assam bundh [strike] called by the All Bodo Students Union entered the 9th day. PTI, quoting official sources, says some miscreants armed with automatic weapons and bombs attacked a police party at Nalbari. The police returned the fire, injuring 10 miscreants, who later escaped. There are no reports of casualties [sentence as heard].

Indefinite Curfew Imposed

BK0504092589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] In Assam, dusk to dawn curfew for an indefinite period has been imposed since yesterday evening along the 96-km-long railway track within the trouble-hit Kokrajhar District. Official sources in Guwahati said that the step has been taken to facilitate smooth running of trains in the sector.

12 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab 3-4 Apr

BK0404160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In Punjab, the Jullundur District police chief escaped unharmed when terrorists ambushed his vehicle near Khalsian village in Amritsar District last night. The security forces arrested 12 more terrorists during raids at different places in the state since yesterday.

Air Force Plane Crashes in Rajasthan 3 Apr

BK0404030089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] An Indian Air Force plane, which took off from Jodhpur yesterday crashed near Chopar village of Shivpura in Pali District of Rajasthan. According to police, the plane caught fire in midair and crashed within seconds. The pilot of the plane, however, bailed out safely.

New Balance of Payment Strategy Reported

BK0204035489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] A new strategy to tackle the balance of payment crisis is in the offing. According to official sources, the government has decided not to go in for fresh IMF loans to tide over the problem. Our correspondent Vineeta Dipak analyzes the scenario:

[Begin Dipak recording] During the first 4 years of the seventh plan [period], India has borrowed nearly $7.5 billion from the international market. But the resilient economy and strictly-regulated exchange reserves have so far kept it away from any serious debt trap. At the same time, the foreign exchange reserve position is anything but comfortable. Reserves as of 1st of March this year stood at 5,650 crore rupees. This is much below the safe limit of reserves which should be at least worth financing a 3-month import bill. The situation is likely to be much the same in the coming financial year. For, imports continue to outpace the rise in export earnings. Secondly, repayment of the principal amount borrowed from the IMF is expected to be around 1,557 crore rupees in 1989-90.

Also, with an expected upswing in the global oil prices, the import bill of crude oil in the coming financial year will be around 6,000 crore rupees. It is to counter this bleak scenario that the government has decided to try a new balance of payment strategy. With no new IMF loan on the agenda, efforts would instead be made to get more concessional aid. The strategy envisages a sharp cutback in imports, accompanied by a renewed thrust on exports. The industry ministry and the department of electronics have already been directed to reduce nonessential imports over the next 3 months. [end recording]

Arunachal Pradesh Gets Nine TV Transmitters

BK0304033789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Nine low-power TV transmitters have been installed in Arunachal Pradesh. An official report says transmitters have been set up at Itanagar, Pasighat, Tezu, Tawang, Bomdila, Seppa, Ziro, Anini, and Along.

Iran

Commentary on Purpose of Propagation Organization

LD0404130189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1048 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Following the request of members of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Propagation [tabliq] Organization regarding the designation of a head for the organization by the honorable leadership, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a decree appointed Ayatollah Jannati to direct and head the Islamic Propagation Organization.

In the decree, the guidelines for the Islamic Propagation Organization's future have been stipulated and the momentous duty of publicity in the Islamic system has been stressed. The Islamic Propagation Organization was established with the aim of confronting the poisonous propaganda of global arrogance and of presenting Islamic principles and values and, ultimately, the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Global arrogance headed by the superpowers pursues important goals through propaganda against Islam. The propaganda is chiefly based on three principles: strengthening colonialist culture and politics, weakening and disarming the national and religious culture of countries, and looting the Third World's material and spiritual wealth. Toward the realization of those aims, thousands of newspapers and radio and television stations are busy day and night so that by using the most advanced equipment and the latest propaganda techniques, they may fulfill the aims of powerholders and their arrogant wishes and impose their ideas and their aims on the nations of the world. Toward that end, the mass media affiliated with the powerful and to the owners of capital do not refrain from using any propaganda ploy, whether legitimate or illegitimate, to deceive the world's oppressed and dominated nations.

To dominate and rule Islamic Iran and to prevent Islamic awakening in the world, global arrogance has embarked on confronting Iran's Islamic revolution with all its might. It has tried, with the intensity of its propaganda, to misrepresent the Islamic revolution's values. In such circumstances, publicity organizations and institutions, especially the Islamic Propagation

Organization, bear the momentous duty of presenting the revolution's principles and values and of analyzing them for the freethinkers of the world. Publicity organizations in the Islamic system not only have the duty of communicating the message of pure Muhammadan Islam to Muslims but are ultimately responsible for guiding the human community.

In his decree on Ayatollah Jannati, the imam of the ummah described publicity as one of the very important principles of Islam and he stipulated the duties of that organization. Now the Islamic Propagation Organization, which bears the heavy burden of publicity, is responsible for everything identified in the messages of the leader of the revolution.

The presentation of pure Muhammadan Islam—with its anger, hostility, and sacred and revolutionary disdain towards Western capitalism and aggressionist Eastern communism—and the demonstration to the people, especially to the brave youth of our country, of the means of combating deception and treachery, are the most important duties of publicity.

The correct presentation of pure Muhammadan Islam, the framework for which has been depicted by the leader of the revolution, can foil the evil propaganda aims of the West which tries to destroy Islamic values. With the correct and principled presentation of pure Muhammadan Islam, no place will remain for the defenders and propagators of U.S. Islam in any shape or form, whether as pseudo-believers or those ossified in their beliefs or deceivers or in the shape of those inclined towards the West or sly compromisers. The path of treachery and deception will then be shut.

The presentation and dissemination of pure Muhammadan Islam and the revelation of its truths will so heighten astuteness and intelligence that society will be immune to any social, political, economic or cultural tribulation, and will prefer the maintenance of Islamic principles and values to any other thing. It will be convinced that Islam is the most important and the best thing and Islam's fundamental and basic principles will be inviolable.

Stressing the attachment of the Islamic system to its principles and aims, the imam of the ummah graciously says: The fact that the system is serious in its aims, that it does not engage in pleasantries with anyone and will decisively confront anyone in any circumstances if Islamic values are threatened must be seen as an inviolable principle by any officials and people.

Daily Says Nation 'Disgusted' With Liberals

LD0504075189 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial commented on the phases and difficulties that the 10-year old Islamic revolution of Iran has gone through and the guidelines of Imam Khomeyni which have saved the revolution. It said the imam with his firm decisions and timely guidelines warned the nation and the revolutionary forces of possible dangers.

The experience of the past is the most valuable asset and one must take lessons from them and prevent repetition of unpleasant and bitter experiences, said the paper adding that the damage done to the revolution and the nation by the liberals is one such experience. It said the nation had paid dearly for it and the revolution had suffered severe damage.

The editorial said the liberals were hostile to the revolution and in the course of the 10 years have sided with the U.S., the monafiqin (the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organisation) and Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn.

"Such a black record must not be forgotten. One must ask why those with such records have been neglected and allowed to penetrate where they have wanted and do all kinds of mischief without bearing the consequences."

The paper raised the question whether the security information officials of the country are aware of these issues or just by tolerating their mischief are preparing the ground for further actions. The nation has rejected the liberals and is disgusted with their mischief but it is surprising that these acts are ignored, it said.

The paper warned that the issue must be taken up and the liberals be deprived of further chances. It urged the information authorities of the country to meet their responsibility in this respect.

No 'Official' Comment on Larijani Resignation

NC0404193889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Tehran—Leading diplomat of the Islamic Republic Mohammad Javad Larijani presented his resignation to Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, informed sources said yesterday.

The sources told the TEHRAN TIMES that Dr. Larijani submitted his resignation to Velayati on March 19 which was accepted by the minister immediately. The sources who preferred not to be identified by name declined to reveal further details of the circumstance leading to the resignation of Larijani.

Foreign Ministry's Director General of the European Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi took over from Dr. Larijani who was deputy foreign minister in charge of European and American affairs.

Dr. Larijani received his education in Iran and the United States. He travelled widely abroad in the course of his normal diplomatic duties. He travelled to the United Nations Headquarters in New York for talks with the Security General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the implementation of the Security Council Resolution No. 598 which Iran accepted on July 20 last.

Dr. Larijani's last visit abroad was in January last when he went to Moscow along with Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli who presented historical message of Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Imam Khomeyni to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The TEHRAN TIMES tried to contact Dr. Larijani yesterday but it was said that he was out of town. No other official comment was available on the reasons for Dr. Larijani's resignation and of his future plans.

ABRAR on West's Concern Over Soviet Ties

LD0404085289 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA—The morning daily ABRAR in an editorial Tuesday commented on the recent developments in Tehran-Moscow relations and said they are indicative of a clear prospect for future relations.

The turning point in bilateral relations was the exchange of messages between the leaders of the two countries—a move which the paper said surprised political observers and is considered a major step towards establishment of new relations. The paper said last week's trip to Moscow of Iranian foreign minister will help expand bilateral relations.

Referring to ups and downs in Tehran-Moscow ties over the past ten years, ABRAR said the recent developments and exchange of messages have become a cause of concern for the West.

Western press comments attributed Velayati's visit to Moscow to Iran's strained relations with Europe and said the future of Tehran-Moscow ties is instable. The Western press have failed to realise the long-standing relations between the two countries and interest of the both nations in promoting relations on the basis of mutual respect and international laws.

The exchange of messages provided an opportunity for expansion of bilateral political and economic relations and easing the pressure of the West on Iran, the paper added.

Musavi Meets With Envoys to EC Countries

LD0404202689 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In his meeting today with the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassadors and charge d'affaires to the EEC member states, Premier Mir Hoseyn Musavi emphasized: Iran will not under any conditions give up the basic principles of the Islamic revolution in its dealings with foreign countries. The premier cited Imam Khomeyni's stance regarding the Salman Rushdie case as a clear and decisive example in dealing with foreign countries.

Mr Musavi also referred to the fact that economic cooperation should be on an equal position, and said: Our government and nation is not willing to have any kind of economic cooperation with countries which are involved in undermining the principles of the Islamic revolution.

Warns of Foreign Dependency

LD0504063189 Tehran IRNA in English 0549 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said Tuesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran would under no conditions give up the basic principles of the Islamic revolution in its relations with foreign countries. He also predicted that any kind of flexibility and reconciliation with other states, would result in Iran's dependency on them.

Musavi made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's ambassadors and charge d'affaires to EEC, recalled home following a similar move by EEC states over the publication of the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses."

Musavi cited Imam Khomeyni's stance regarding the Rushdie affair as a brilliant symbol of firmness in facing foreign countries. He added this policy should be preserved in all foreign issues.

The prime minister rejected the idea that internal problems would be overcome through expansion of ties with other countries regardless of the price. He said experiences of the past ten years proved that problems would not be solved except through reliance on devote and efficient forces and by adhering to Islamic principles. He stressed "If we keep on to our principles then we can regulate our relations with the outside world desirably and from an independent position."

Turning to economic affairs, he once again reiterated that economic cooperation with other states should be balanced. He emphasised that the government and nation of Iran were against economic cooperations which they knew would damage principles of the Islamic revolution.

President Khamene'i Receives New Ambassadors

LD0304184489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 apr 89

[Text] President Khamene'i separately received Messrs Granquist and (Han Sun Ho), the new ambassadors of Sweden and North Korea to Iran, this evening. The two countries' ambassadors presented their credentials during their meetings with the president of Iran.

During the meeting the Swedish ambassador conveyed warm greetings from his country's leader and briefed the president on the decisive support of Swedish officials for the UN secretary general's efforts toward full implementation of Resolution 598. He also informed Mr Khamene'i of the desire of his country's authorities to expand bilateral ties. The president expressed his gratitude for the king of Sweden's message and welcomed the expansion of bilateral cooperation. He also wished success for the Swedish ambassador during his new mission in Tehran.

During his meeting with President Khamene'i, the new ambassador of North Korea, while conveying best wishes and sincere greetings from his country's president, Mr Kim Il-song, referred to Iran's remarkable successes under the leadership of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, and said: We view the victories and successes of the revolutionary nation of Iran, with the slogan of independence, freedom and Islam, as our own successes.

The new North Korean ambassador, while stressing that the government and the nation of Korea attach great importance to expanding cooperation with Iran, informed Mr Khamene'i of his country's the readiness to cooperate in Iran's reconstruction plans. Afterward, Mr Khamene'i, while thanking DPRK President Kim Il-song for his friendly message, referred to the expanding relations of Iran and North Korea during the 10 years since the Islamic revolution's victory, and said: The governments and nations of Iran and North Korea have many common viewpoints which have contributed toward the daily expansion of cooperation. In fact the two countries, in view of each other's experience and valuable possibilities, can expand their cooperation.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the new ambassador of North Korea said: Our president and nation are eagerly awaiting Your Excellency's visit to the DPRK and we are certain that such a visit will be a new phase in the two countries' growing cooperation.

Kalantari, GDR Envoy Ratify Agricultural Accord

LD0404221889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] During a meeting this morning between the GDR ambassador and Agriculture Minister Mr Kalantari, the two countries' agricultural cooperation was ratified. In the course of this meeting the two sides held talks on agro-industries, livestock husbandry, agricultural research, natural resources, exchanges, and utilization of each other's agricultural experiences. Export of various vaccines manufactured by the Vaccine and Serum Manufacturing Institute of Razi to the GDR was among the other issues discussed during the meeting.

Besharati Comments on Obstacles to Peace Talks

NC0404141489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0645 GMT 4 Apr 89

[From the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] After approximately 9 years since the military aggression by the Iraqi regime was launched against the Islamic Republic of Iran and in view of the existence of various facts and documents, the active role by the superpowers, and especially by the Western powers, in the all-embracing support for the Ba'thist regime cannot be denied. Throughout the 8 years of the Iranian nation's sacred defense, Western governments aided the Baghdad regime in various ways. By resorting to a variety of political, economic, and military methods, propaganda, and diplomatic tools, they helped to strengthen the expansionist and unjust stand of the Ba'thists vis-a-vis Iran. The clear and overt example of this support was the usurping presence of the warships of the United States and of its European allies in the Persian Gulf and in the Strait of Hormuz.

After Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598—which met with the Baghdad rulers' obstructions during the peace talks—the Western governments' hostilities toward the Islamic revolution, which were undoubtedly aimed at supporting the irresponsible positions of the Ba'thist regime, continued in a new form. Until the acceptance of the Security Council resolution, Western arrogance had placed Iran under very strong political, economic, and propaganda pressures and aggressions to accept this resolution. At this time, however, it remained silent and adopted a position of indifference regarding the Ba'thist regime's obstructionism to the peace process.

We invite you to listen to remarks by Brother Besharati, the honorable deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on this subject.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] I thank Mr Besharati, the honorable deputy foreign minister, for having given us some time for this program. Undoubtedly, before the acceptance of the resolution, Eastern and Western diplomacy was aimed at ending the war without a military victor. Under the present circumstances and in view of the existing deadlock in the Iran-Iraq peace talks, how does Your Excellency see the role of the arrogant powers in protracting or overcoming these obstacles?

[Besharati] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak to the dear brothers in the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps and to all the dear listeners.

Studying the factors that have led to an interruption in the peace talks without taking into consideration the motives behind the war will not yield any results. We know that the war was imposed on us at a time when all the plots and machinations and—as stated by U.S. charge d'affaires in Tehran, (?Higgins)—the plan to turn the situation to the benefit of Western arrogance were defeated. In other words, they had the U.S. four-star general, Huyser, ready to carry out a military coup in Tehran. This did not yield any results. There were coup plans by Army officers in the last days of the victory [of the revolution] and on the evening of 10 February [eve of the revolution], which were foiled. Later plots, namely, the military aggression on Tabas, yielded no results.

The attempt by U.S. elements who wanted to start a coup from the Nowzheh Base yielded no results either. The secessionists who, by taking some of our western cities, tried to fulfill the wishes of the imperialists, were foiled. The constant explosions caused by the arrogant powers and their representatives on the overseas oil routes and on routes to the refineries were thwarted. The vast presence of groups and minigroups who wanted to defeat the Islamic revolution yielded no results. At this point, I want to make a mention that it is unprecedented in history for 17 armed organizations to simultaneously declare war on a country. All of these moves, all of these plots were neutralized.

It was then that we witnessed the Iraqi regime's military aggression, its crossing of international borders, and its occupation of 22,000 sq km of our Islamic homeland's territory. Naturally, the military aggression was the result of all of the plots and aggressions, including sinister plots by arrogance, to return the situation to normal [as heard]. One would be making a grave mistake if one thought that the continuation of the war, the war slogans, the interventions, and the presence in and occupation of part of the Iraqi territory were what led to international pressure. If we had remained where we were and if, after the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas" operation that led to the liberation of Khorramshahr, we had not pursued the Iraqi forces, they would not have given us anything and the pressures would have continued. But after the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas" operations, we were able to carry out another extensive operation in Iraqi territory in order to halt the Iraqi war machinery—which was fighting against us with the blessings of Eastern and Western arrogance—and to thus prove the strength of the Islamic revolution to the world.

Now that we have accepted the cease-fire, no one should think that those powers which are members of the Security Council—the same powers that imposed the war on us in a bid to defeat the Islamic revolution—are ready to adopt a decision that will benefit us. Do you think they are prepared to act so that the process will start to move in favor of our nation and of the Islamic revolution? No. One year before accepting the cease-fire, we told the Council of Deputies [as heard]—and this is recorded in the minutes of the meeting—that if we do accept the cease-fire, the imperialists will not give us anything. If today we see overt interruption and strong obstructionism by Iraq in the talks, this is not unnatural. Resolution 598 was a resolution that they themselves approved. All delegations, in all aspects, concentrated on the fact that Resolution 598 is the best solution to end the war. However, we saw just the opposite. We saw how the same powers that imposed the war on us also prepared and approved Resolution 598 to end the war and are now creating obstacles. Therefore, it is clear that at the time when groups and grouplets and counterrevolutionaries created troubles, at the time when our territories were under occupation, and now that we are witnessing obstructionism in the peace talks, everything was and is moving in one direction and pointing at one policy. And any number multiplied by zero yields zero.

They can never tolerate the Islamic revolution. Now that we have declared a cease-fire and 10 years have passed since the revolution and we want to start our country's reconstruction, we are witnessing an extensive aggression on a childish pretext. The question is: With the culmination of the war, with the occupation of Al-Faw which changed the region's geography, and with the occupation of the nest of spies, the EEC never resorted to anything like this. What happened this time?

Why, for the sake of an disreputable author who has insulted the sanctities of 1 billion Muslims in the world, have they taken such a position against us for protesting this action, this book, and its author? It is clear they have not yet understood the Islamic revolution and do not want to live next to the Islamic revolution. We too should speak to them in their own language. Our sanctities have been insulted, the same sanctities that were the elements in bringing about the Islamic revolution. We prefer not to have relations, but to have an Islamic revolution. We prefer that the prophet of God, peace be upon him, remains dear and revered and everyone severs relations with us.

This extensive aggression by the imperialists continues because they have not stopped their enmity toward us. However, they sometimes resort to a military war, sometimes a propaganda war, sometimes to supporting secessionist groups, and sometimes to supporting criminal grouplets, each day in one form or another in order to show their enmity. All this dictates that we be more devoted, more alert, more resistant, more diligent, and more careful, so that we can defend the Islamic revolution, an Islamic revolution that has inflicted the greatest blow on them. They are terrified, more than ever before, of the Islamic revolution, its breadth, and the position it enjoys. [end recording]

Lavasani Heads Delegation for UN Peace Talks

LD0504085689 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Deputy for International Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani heading an experts delegation left Tehran for the United Nations Headquarters, New York, Wednesday morning for talks with U.N. officials on Iran-Iraq peace talks. The delegation is scheduled to hold talks Thursday and Friday with the U.N. officials to make preparations for the fourth round of talks between foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq.

Foreign Ministry on UN Resolution on Namibia

LD0204200789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Our Foreign Ministry issued a statement which referred to the current course of events in Namibia as positive, and congratulated the people of Namibia for the significant step taken toward their independence. According to the Central News Unit, the statement noted the Islamic Republic's recognition of the independent state of Namibia. It also stressed the need for continuing international moves until Namibia's full independence is realized..

The Foreign Ministry statement also says: It seems that the struggle of the revolutionary nation of Namibia will ultimately lead to its sovereignty over its own destiny and the termination of the apartheid conspiracy. It would now be appropriate for the international community to assist the revolutionary people of Namibia in achieving their independence and full rights. The international community should seriously and thoroughly follow the issue, prepare the way for healthy elections, and confront the apartheid regime's obstructionism and possible conspiracies.

Khamene'i Reviews Bakhtaran Province Situation

LD0404114389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, on the 1st day of his visit to Bakhtaran Province, took part in the morning ceremony parade of the joint military and security forces of the province. He said: After 8 years of war, our Armed Forces, with great historical experiences and tests behind them, stand before the Iranian nation and the world observers with a good conscience, with pride, and with honor.

According to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY the ceremonies were staged in the Bakhtaran Army Aviation Service base with model military and security units of Bakhtaran present. Officials of that province and deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) also attended.

Mr Khamene'i remarked: Our nation is proud that it was able to prove its national power and greatness and to demonstrate the impact of revolutionary Islam—with 8 years of holy defense of the Islamic revolution—to the world. The president pointed to the necessity for preparedness on the part of the Armed Forces at the present juncture and said: Preserving unity and internal and external organizational solidarity, raising the level of combat preparedness, strengthening training and efficiency, embarking on strengthening organizational capacities within the forces, and preserving and maintaining military equipment should be placed on top of the list of the military forces' tasks.

On the basis of this report, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council today, in a meeting with political officials and military commanders of the western region, reviewed political and military issues and the situation in Bakhtaran Province.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Speech on Economy Assessed

PM0404100189 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 22 Mar 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Speech by Majlis Speaker and Confusion Over Economic Issues"]

[Text] The Majlis speaker gave a speech on the birthday of Imam Husayn during a general visit with the leader of the revolution. He said officials responsible for the Majlis and government are trying to find solutions to the problems of high prices, inflation, and unemployment, but that as before, this issue needs more detailed guidance and intervention from the imam in order to solve the peoples' problems.

These remarks by the Majlis speaker, in the presence of the leader of the revolution, have been regarded with some doubt by the country's economic and social circles. It is normal for officials to seek a solution to high prices, inflation, and unemployment—elements that create a great deal of hardship for the people. However, to involve the leader of the revolution in every issue and problem makes one doubt the capabilities of the officials. It brings to mind the question: Why do even social and economic issues require guidance from the imam. What then are the planners, economists, and experts doing?

Current issues such as high prices, inflation, and unemployment are economic problems that fall within the framework of an economic program, unless they are very complicated and outside the boundaries of finance. In which case, what do these issues concern about which the people know nothing, and why are the people not informed?

People right now are bothered by high prices. The people themselves can see that so far nothing has been done. On the other hand, the government is causing concern by raising the prices of some items, thus increasing the effects of high prices on society.

The issue of high prices is presently creating a psychological war within society, especially in the free and controlled markets. Cash flowing through peoples' hands makes the effects worse, as does the general chaos about prices.

It was announced last week that the Expediency Discernment Council has approved a bill to combat hoarding goods and selling goods at inflated prices. It authorizes the revolution courts to see that the bill is carried out.

Although the text of the bill has not yet been announced, one realizes that, keeping in mind previous experience, dealing with high prices on a fluctuating basis will not be successful without having a feasible, proper, and powerful economic policy. In reality, when it comes to facing the issues created by a weak economy, we tend to look at results rather than the real root of the problem.

The Majlis speaker's address and announcement regarding the necessity of intervention by the revolution's leader offer some degree of stability and show an effort to resolve the issue. Yet, it bares officials in front of the people and inflames the psychological war within society with regard to the economy. It increases the social shortcomings that are the result of financial issues. The people want to know what the Majlis speaker says, what is hidden from their sight. What exactly is this big issue that needs direct intervention by the leader of the revolution?

Nepal

Response to Expiration of Trade, Transit Treaties

Students Protest Shortages

BK0404092089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] In Nepal, students have held demonstrations at various places in Kathmandu protesting against shortage of essential commodities, following the expiry of the Indo-Nepal trade and transit treaties. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent reports that the police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators. Tribhuvan University has been closed down for 2 months and three journalists have been arrested on the charge of instigating the students.

Police 'Thwart' Student Protests

BK0404143589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 4 Apr 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Excerpts] Kathmandu, April 4 (AFP)—Riot police moved in Tuesday [4 April] to thwart a planned anti-government rally here by students after a day of protests sparked by the closure of Nepal's two universities and a trade suspension by India. Nepalese authorities Monday banned all public rallies and demonstrations here after thousands of students staged anti-government and anti-Indian demonstrations to protest India's 11-day-old suspension of trade to Nepal.

Police arrested 75 students and two journalists as demonstrators here took to the streets to protest the disruption of trade in the Himalayan Kingdom following the expiry of trade and transit agreements with India on March 23.

The treaty expiration brought exports from India, including oil supplies, to a virtual halt. Oil shortages forced the government Monday to close Tribhuvan and Mahendra Sanskrit Universities for two months, affecting 75,000 students.

A show of force by riot police thwarted a planned rally by the pro-democracy Nepal Students' Union Tuesday at Tribhuvan's Tri Chandra campus, where a day earlier thousands of students had demonstrated. More than a dozen students suffered head injuries when riot police dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas and batons. The students pelted stones, injuring more than six policemen. Riot police guarded all public meeting venues in the capital Tuesday.

The unrest and shortages have begun to affect tourism, a leading revenue-earner for Nepal, although officials said necessary arrangements were being made to ensure the smooth running of the hotel and tourism industry. Nepalese authorities have allocated a quota of diesel and fuel to enable tourist industry officials to accommodate foreign tourists, officials said. [passage omitted]

The number of Indian tourists entering Nepal by land has been drastically cut because of the strict vigilance at the Indian border, officials said here. They noted that wealthy Indian tourists usually visit Nepal between April and September to avoid India's hot season. [passage omitted]

A Nepalese Tourism Ministry official said however that tourism from Europe, the United States and Canada, and some Asian countries such as Japan, New Zealand and Australia had not been affected. Hotels in Kathmandu reported a steady flow of tourists arriving in groups or on an individual basis. But a Nepal Hotel Association official said travel in the capital was more difficult as fewer taxis were in service. Overseas airlines were reportedly flying with reduced passenger and cargo loads in order to ensure sufficient fuel.

The Nepalese Government has begun negotiations with oil companies in Singapore, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka for the purchase of oil, an official said. [passage omitted]

Entry of Gas, Medicine Blocked

BK0404145689 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] For the 15th day today, kerosene, petrol, and other petroleum products bought by Nepal from third countries by paying convertible foreign exchange and handed over to the Indian Oil [Corporation] have not been allowed to enter Nepal from India. Though the trade and transit treaties between Nepal and India expired at midnight on 23 March, these products were prevented from entering Nepal since 19 March.

Today is also the 12th day that India has denied entry into Nepal essential drugs as well as the drugs for which payments have already been made. However, a tanker with 4,000 liters of kerosene meant for the Indian Embassy entered Nepal on 29 March.

Nepal Oil Corporation, NOC, has made arrangements to import petroleum products from third countries and an order has already been placed for the first consignment of diesel, according to NOC. The arrangement has been made as India stopped petroleum products from entering Nepal.

Previously, Nepal used to import kerosene and diesel from third countries and bartered them with India for aviation fuel, petrol, furnace oil, and liquified petroleum gas. The petroleum products, imported by Nepal against own currency in a crude or refined form, used to be handed over to the Indian Oil Corporation. NOC used to pay charges for the warehousing, [word indistinct], and other services provided by the India Oil. India stopped supplying petroleum to Nepal since 21 March despite the fact that the agreement between NOC and Indian Oil for the supply of petroleum to Nepal was valid till 31 March.

Pakistan

'About 55,000' Afghans Arrive From Jalalabad

BK0404155289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Jean-Piere Hocke, visited the Pakistan-Afghan border at (Shingam) near Towr Kham and Kohat and met with the refugees who have recently arrived there from the areas around Jalalabad. He was told that about 55,000 Afghan nationals, who recently arrived from Jalalabad areas, have taken shelter in various refugee camps in the North-West Frontier Province.

Ishaq Khan Meets UNHCR on Aid to Refugees

BK0304160189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed the hope that the Afghan problem would soon be settled in accordance with the aspirations of the Afghan people and that the refugees would be able to return to their country in honor and dignity. The president said this during a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], Mr Jean-Pierre Hocke, who called on him in Islamabad today. The president commended the assistance given by the UNHCR office.

The UN high commissioner praised the liberal assistance given by Pakistan to the Afghan refugees for many years on humanitarian grounds. He said his office would continue to give appropriate aid to the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and is planning to discharge its responsibilities regarding the return of the Afghan refugees. The president congratulated Mr Hocke on his reelection as the UN high commissioner for refugees.

Prime Minister Bhutto Interviewed on Afghanistan

PM0404073489 Paris LIBERATION in French 22 Mar 89 p 28

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Karan Thapar; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] LIBERATION: Some foreign and Pakistani journalists claim that Afghan policy is in the hands of the Army's Interservices Intelligence Directorate and not in your cabinet's hands.

Benazir Bhutto: That is not true. There is indeed an Afghan cell headed by the national security adviser, who is a civilian, and cabinet members form part of that cell. Moreover, the national security adviser is also a cabinet member. The foreign minister, who also belongs to that cell, is also a member of the cabinet, as is the defense adviser. And the directorate keeps the prime minister informed. In the current prime minister's case, reports are passed through the national security adviser. In addition, I must say that this policy was decided in accordance with the civilian government's requirements.

Of course, this does not mean that there are not still many prominent figures from the Ziaul Haq era, and I would not say that the very painful legacy of the Ziaul Haq years has disappeared. I would not even claim that we do not have problems. But I say that every action and every decision made by this government is intended to promote and strengthen democracy. If we feel that we are departing from this principle at any time, we will step down. We can always take up our seats on the opposition benches again.

LIBERATION: To turn to Afghanistan more directly, the Islamic Conference Organization, to which we belong, recently invited the mujahidin to take Afghanistan's seat in the organization. Does this mean that you officially recognize the mujahidin government?

Benazir Bhutto: I do not think that that can be viewed as recognition in due form. Pakistan did not officially recognize the interim government. This is a question to be considered. We obviously wish the Afghan government well. We noted that it is headed by Mojadeddi, a moderate, and that, despite all statements to the contrary, the alliance leaders have come together, showing a remarkable spirit of unity. This unity should be applauded and strengthened.

LIBERATION: Last week the Soviet Union once again stated that Pakistani soldiers and generals were fighting alongside the mujahidin inside Afghanistan. What is your answer?

Benazir Bhutto: Not one Pakistani soldier has crossed the border and none will. It is an Afghan war and we do not want to be involved in a civil war in Afghanistan. We will do everything in our power to promote peace.

LIBERATION: Then why do the Soviets constantly repeat their accusations?

Benazir Bhutto: They probably have their reasons, but they are not based on tangible facts. From my viewpoint, it is a sign of the Kabul regime's weakness. They know they cannot hold out, but instead of admitting their failure, they prefer to blame others for it.

LIBERATION: What do you think of India's recent pledge to give humanitarian aid to the Kabul regime?

Benazir Bhutto: It is entitled to do so. However, we in Pakistan think that the sooner peace and stability are restored to that region, the better it will be. According to our information, peace and stability are not possible with the government now in place in Kabul.

LIBERATION: Do you think that the escalation in the fighting inside Afghanistan will deter the 3 million Afghan refugees on your northern border from returning home?

Benazir Bhutto The continuation of the civil war is a serious worry for Pakistan. The quicker we reach a satisfactory settlement, the better it will be. Until then, we cannot undertake the task of rebuilding and rehabilitating the country. This is a serious burden on our own resources and our economy.

Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Greet 'Arafat on Election

BK0304162989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, have felicitated Mr Yasir 'Arafat on his election as president of the Palestine state. In their messages they said they received the news of his election with utmost joy and pride.

The president said appointment of Mr Yasir 'Arafat to the high office is a measure of determination of the Palestinians to march ahead for realization of their national objective and evidence of their unflinching loyalty to his wise and courageous leadership.

The prime minister in her message said election of Mr 'Arafat brings the Palestinian struggle nearer to its cherished goal. It constitutes a renewed expression of Palestinian state in his sagacious and courageous leadership in their jihad [holy war] for a homeland. The prime minister said the people of Pakistan will continue to march shoulder to shoulder with their Palestinian brethren in their struggle for freedom.

Army Chief Hosts Bhutto, Ishaq Khan 1 Apr

BK0204111889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] President Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan visited the General Headquarters [GHQ] and attended the proceedings of the Army Selection Board. He was briefed on the working of the Selection Board. Last night, President Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto attended the dinner hosted by the chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, for the participants of the formation commanders conference now under way at the GHQ.

Seminar on Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's Legacy Opens

BK0204120489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] A 2-day international seminar on the legacy of Bhutto began in Karachi today in connection with the 10th death anniversary of former prime minister, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. In her inaugural address, the senior federal minister and the chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party], Begum Nusrat Bhutto, recounted the achievements of Shahid [Martyr] Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, saying he belongs to history and would be remembered till eternity. The phenomenon of the departed leader's life was the singular commitment to the cause of the downtrodden; unity, integrity, and the prosperity of the nation; conduct of foreign affairs with dignity on the basis of bilateralism, unity of Islamic ummah [community], and promotion of the cause of the Third World.

In her message to the seminar, the prime minister said: With his great courage and heroic martyrdom, Shahid Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto transcended the barriers of time and place and became embedded in the part of history. Ms Benazir Bhutto said he left an overwhelming effect on generations, and his influence and vision continue to serve as a beacon light 10 years after he left this world. He was the undisputed leader of the people, who spoke to them in their language.

A former French president, Mr Giscard d'Estaing, in his message read out by the the French ambassador, paid glowing tributes to Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto for his pragmatic approach and a global vision in the field of international relations. The seminar is being attended by a number of distinguished international figures, besides intellectuals and jurists from all over the country.

Bhutto Addresses Meeting

BK0404114689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] The 10th death anniversary of Qaid-i-Awam [leader of the people], Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, is being observed today. Addressing a mammoth commemorative meeting at Garhi Khuda Bux, the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, said the right manner to pay homage to our beloved leader was to continue his mission and uphold the principles which he upheld.

She said: Let us pledge today to continue the struggle to improve the lot of the common man. No efforts will be spared to mitigate the sufferings of the downtrodden. The prime minister said that Pakistan People's Party was the party of the poor masses and never let their interests be overlooked. It will continue the mission of its leader without caring for difficulties in its way.

The prime minister also gave away awards to more than 30 persons who have suffered during the past 11 years for the cause of democracy.

Ziaul Haq's Son Joins Opposition Muslim League

BK0104111289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Karachi, Pakistan, April 1 (AFP)—The son of late Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said at a rally of his father's supporters here that he was joining the conservative opposition Pakistan Muslim League. Addressing the rally late Friday [31 March] at Karachi's central Nishtar Park, Ejazul Haq, 32, vowed to carry on his father's support of Afghan mujahidin fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul and to press for enforcement of the shari'ah, or Islamic laws, in Pakistan.

He defended his father's policies and denied that General Zia, who died in a plane crash on August 17, had been a dictator. Mr. Ejazul Haq, a banker by profession, said his father was a democrat at heart and had worked for the restoration of civilian rule and partyless democracy in Pakistan as called for by Islam. He added that the late president deserved some of the praise for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in February, after a nine-year presence.

Referring to the plane crash which killed his father, along [with] U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Arnold Raphel and several top generals, Mr. Ejazul Haq said the crash had been caused by sabotage, and that he would investigate the incident.

The rally, attended by an estimated 30,000 supporters of the late president and the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) alliance, was the opposition's strongest showing here since Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto came to power in November, observers said. The head of the IJI, chief minister of Punjab Province Nawaz Sharif, also spoke at the rally and vowed to continue fighting the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and to push for the introduction of Islamic law.

He criticised the government for its failure to check ethnic violence in Karachi and other parts of southern Pakistan, which he said had affected the commercial and industrial life of the city, adding that his party would seek to end the violence which has claimed several lives since March 10. [passage omitted]

Violence Prompts Curfews in Karachi Suburbs

BK0304023289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] A press note issued last night by the district magistrate of Karachi East says, two persons were shot and injured in Shah Faisal Colony yesterday. One of them succumbed to his injuries and the condition of the other is improving satisfactorily.

A curfew was reimposed in Shah Faisal Colony and Malir city immediately, which will continue until further orders. After this incident, two persons in a car were shot at in Shah Faisal Colony, and they later succumbed to their injuries. Police took 31 persons into custody. The curfew will be relaxed in Model Colony, Malir Colony, Malir, and Malir Extension from 0700 to 0900 [0200 to 0400 GMT] in the morning and again 1500 to 1700 in the afternoon.

Daily Notes Success in Missile, Rocket Production

BK0304074789 Lahore JANG in Urdu 21 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, (by special correspondent)- Pakistan has manufactured a surface-to-air missile [SAM] which is capable of destroying enemy aircraft and surveillance planes flying up to an altitude of 8 kms. This is yet another achievement by [Pakistani scientist] Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan and his colleagues. The success achieved jointly by the Pakistan's Ministry of Defense production and scientific and nuclear research organizations has made Pakistan's air defense considerably impregnable. These missiles will be displayed during the 23 March Pakistan Day parade at the Race Course Grounds in Rawalpindi. Hatf, the surface-to-surface missile capable of hitting the target up to a range of 300 km, will also be displayed during the parade.

It has been learned that Pakistan's national organization of space research, SUPARCO [Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission], has almost completed the arrangements for testing a new rocket booster. The success of such a test will enable Pakistan to launch its own communications satellite into orbit. SUPARCO is expected to test-fire the rocket [booster] by August or September. This booster can deliver a rocket up to a distance of 400 miles. The test will constitute the first of a 3-phase program for launching indigenously-designed and built lightweight satellites into the orbit. The production of rocket boosters for all the three phases are in different stages of completion.

SUPARCO has also achieved the capability to manufacture various types of rockets, and their hardware, software, and relevant parts are all built indigenously by Pakistan. Special computers have been installed for design work, and micro- and mini-computers have been linked with the mainframe computer to deal with detailed statics. Moreover, SUPARCO scientists are engaged in producing propellant fuel to provide power to the satellite rocket booster. It has also been learned that Pakistan has carried out four successful tests of its first satellite Badr-A. Badr-A is more sensitive and modern compared with any other satellite in the world.

A report by Pakistan TV says Pakistan has developed a multistage rocket capable of delivering scientific equipment to a very high altitude. This was stated by SUPARCO Chairman Salim Mahmud while talking to the television reporter. Dr Salim Mahmud said that SUPARCO has been launching various programs and all of them are progressing very well. He said that there has been considerable progress in rocket manufacturing, and tests in this regard have been carried out since the beginning of this year, 1 January 1989, adding that a big rocket booster will also be test-fired in the current year. Dr Mahmud said that all these tests are aimed at delivering various equipment to the highest possible altitude and also sending light satellites into near-earth orbit. He said that the people will hear more information in this regard in the coming months and there will be more progress.

3 Apr NEWSWEEK Banned on Religious Grounds

BK0304162189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 3 (AFP)—Pakistan has for the second time in nearly two months banned an issue of NEWSWEEK magazine for containing objectionable articles on Islam, an official statement said Monday.

It said all copies of the April 3 issue of NEWSWEEK's Asian Edition had been seized on March 28 as it "contained objectionable material in total disregard of the beliefs and sentiments of the Muslim ummah (community)."

Pakistan last month banned issues of NEWSWEEK, TIME, ASIAWEEK, the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW and the SUNDAY TIMES newspaper of Britain for carrying excerpts from British author Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses," which Moslems say blasphemes their religion.

The statement did not say if the April 3 issue of the weekly magazine carried any articles on Mr. Rushdie and his book. The author has been in hiding in Britain since Iran's spiritual leader the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni called on Moslems in February to kill him.

Sri Lanka

Foreign Minister on President's Amnesty Offer

BK0404111989 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1014 GMT 4 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said yesterday that the president's offer of an amnesty to those who had resorted to arms was a fine opportunity for them to join the democratic political process. The minister wanted all right-thinking people to convince these misguided youth of the futility of resorting to the gun to solve their problems.

Addressing a news conference in parliament yesterday Mr. Wijeratne referred to President Premadasa's speech at Yovuhamuwa '89 [Youth Festival 1989] in Girandurukotte on Saturday night and said "it is a very rare thing for a leader to offer the velvet glove to those who had resorted to arms. Now, they could join the democratic political mainstream by responding to the president's call. It is a wonderful opportunity for them. The president, as you are all aware from his speech, is prepared to give them seats in parliament and he has appealed to the opposition too to allow some seats."

The minister said the government was currently in the process of organising reception centres, six or seven in each district. These will include temples, schools, churches, kovils [Hindu temples] and GA's [government agent's] offices. "We have sent messages to the security forces to treat all those who will be giving up arms humanely without causing them any harm". All party committees will be set up to look into their grievances.

"There was no time limit for these youth to give themselves up. They could do so during the Sinhala and New Year period," he said when asked about a time limit.

Mr. Wijeratne commended the president's sincerity and consistency in his approach to the problem, in a genuine desire to restore peace and normalcy. This alone should be sufficient to build up confidence in those who have been relying on the gun to achieve their ends, to change their attitude and join the democratic process. The minister stressed that it was futile for [words indistinct] anyone to think that problems could be solved by resorting to the gun. "Who does not have grievances? Everyone has sometimes even with one's employers, but they cannot be solved with the gun".

"We as a government have to protect the people. We are doing so at a tremendous cost. It will be a precaution. But problems of those who use the gun will be still simmering. Parliament should be the key forum where they could air their grievances. It is up to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam now to respond to the president's offer even to come to parliament and voice their grievances through parliament to the whole country".

Mr. Wijeratne said the problem should be looked at not from the ethnic aspect only. There were Sinhalese in the south and Tamils in the north, doing the identical thing to put fear into the people; we must wipe out this fear psychosis he said. Associated with the minister at the conference were State Minister for Information A.J. Ranasinghe; and Secretary, Ministry of Defence, General Sepala Attygalle.

22 'Subversives' Arrested; Arms Seized in South

BK0404094489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0923 GMT 4 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)— Continuing their operations in the Moneragala District in Sri Lanka's Uva Province, the security forces killed one subversive armed with a shot gun and seized 8 more shot guns, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. They said that at Dambagalla the security forces recovered a body of a dead man which had been strung on a tree. Twenty subversive suspects were arrested at Pannegamuva, in the Hambantota District, the sources said. The security forces had also taken two subversives into custody at Kadugannawa in the Central Province. Subversives had fired at the official residence of the senior superintendent of police yesterday, wounding a reserve police constable who was on duty.

A report from Matara states that subversives had exploded a landmine at Heegoda, in the Matara District in southern Sri Lanka as a police mobile patrol was passing. However, the landmine missed its target and the police patrolmen escaped unhurt.

Landmine Explosion Rocks Colombo Suburb 4 Apr

BK0404094689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0922 GMT 4 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—Residents in the quiet Colombo suburb of Bellanwila and its environs were jolted awake early this morning by a thunderous explosion which made the walls of buildings in the area vibrate. Police told LANKAPUVATH the explosion in fact was caused by a crudely constructed, but powerful landmine laid by subversives along the main road at Bellanwila, close to the historic Buddhist temple exploding and causing what police described as a 10 foot deep crater. A Sri Lanka Transport Board bus plying on the route had just passed the spot when the explosion occurred at 0430 hours (local time). No one was injured. Police said they found some empty 9 mm empty shells and a pair of slippers at the scene of the crime.

Officer Killed, 'Scores' Wounded in Violence

BK0504052889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0523 GMT 5 Apr 89

[Text] Colombo, April 5 (AFP)—An Army officer died and scores of security personnel were injured in sporadic violence across Sri Lanka Wednesday as a Sinhalese rebel strike got under way, defence officials here said. An Army lieutenant was blown up when he tried to dismantle a booby-trapped device set by the Sinhalese militant group Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) in Habantota District, officials said.

They said JVP rebels also attacked scores of police and Army patrols and exploded at least six bombs near the capital early Wednesday as the strike to mark a failed youth insurrection in 1971 began.

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